

Soviets prepare Iraq nuclear study

BAGHDAD (R) — Soviet experts have completed preliminary studies for construction of Iraq's first nuclear power plant and will submit their report later this year, the Iraqi news agency INA said Friday. It said a group of about 40 experts had surveyed various sites for the proposed plant under an agreement signed last March by Iraq's Atomic Energy Commission and the Soviet Union's Atomenergoprom. The experts had returned home to prepare a report they will submit towards the middle of this year, INA said. It said the decision to build a medium-size nuclear power plant to diversify energy resources followed the world energy crisis in the 1970s. In 1981, Israel bombed a nuclear reactor near Baghdad, saying Iraq was working on a nuclear bomb — a charge denied by Iraq. The International Atomic Energy Agency supported the Iraqi denial.

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U.S. sees Soviet nuclear superiority

LOS ANGELES (R) — The Reagan administration expects the Soviet Union will become far superior to the United States in nuclear weaponry during the next decade, the Los Angeles Times reported Friday. The newspaper said in a front-page story it had learned this was the administration's main motivation for developing a "Star Wars" missile defence system based in space (See page 8). It said that in the pessimistic view of President Reagan's principal advisers, Soviet nuclear arms superiority — if unchecked by a meaningful arms agreement — will come about largely because of the Kremlin's expected deployment of new land-based intercontinental missiles. The report said these new missiles would be highly mobile and virtually impossible to track with U.S. spy satellites. The Soviet missiles are expected to be kept in deep forests and in buildings that will make them impossible to detect, the newspaper added.

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U.N. protests UNIFIL-Israeli scuffle in Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations has protested to the Israeli government over Thursday's scuffle between a French contingent of U.N. peacekeeping troops and Israeli soldiers in Lebanon, a U.N. spokesman said Friday. The scuffle broke out in the southern village of Bourj Rahhal, where Israelis bulldozed homes and detained 60 people (See page 2). "UNIFIL (the peacekeeping force) cannot use military force except in the last resort in self-defence," a U.N. spokesman said Friday. "When Israeli forces seek to bulldoze houses or commit actions counter to humanitarian principles, UNIFIL tries to prevent them short of using firearms. This is what the French platoon sought to do during the incident of Bourj Rahhal yesterday," he said.

Swedish defence chief in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Swedish Defence Minister Anders Thunberg arrived here Friday on a three-day visit during which he will have talks with Egyptian officials on military cooperation.

Jaruzelski ends visit to India

BOMBAY (AP) — The Polish premier, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, departed for home Friday at the end of a four-day official tour of India — his first trip outside the Soviet bloc as head of government. In New Delhi, Gen. Jaruzelski promised that his government would "scrupulously" investigate charges that a Polish diplomat or trade representative was involved in India's spy case. His trip came on the heels of a disclosure in a New Delhi court that the Polish, French and East German embassies were involved in India's highest espionage scandal since independence. In Bombay, Gen. Jaruzelski toured India's main nuclear research centre.

Dumas, Hassan II hold talks

RABAT (R) — French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas had talks with King Hassan of Morocco in the royal palace at Marrakech after his arrival Friday for a 24-hour visit. No details of the talks were revealed but it is thought that apart from bilateral relations they discussed the situation in North Africa and the Western Sahara.

Interpol chief resigns

PARIS (R) — French police Inspector Andre Bossard has resigned as secretary-general of the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol), an Interpol spokesman said Friday. Capt. Bossard, 58, has been Interpol chief since 1978. He cited health and other reasons when he submitted his resignation to the group's 13-member executive committee meeting in Paris. Commander Raymond Kendall, a former Scotland Yard detective who heads Interpol's police division, will take over as acting head of the organisation until its general assembly meets in October to formally appoint a successor.

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Fateh leaders voice conflicting views on agreement Obeidat: Jordan, PLO envisage joint team to Mideast conference

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have agreed to send a joint negotiating team to a future international peace conference on the Middle East, Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat said in Tunis Thursday.

Mr. Obeidat's statement confirmed reports from Palestinian sources that under the PLO-Jordanian formula worked out in Amman last Monday, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had dropped a demand to send an independent team to any peace talks.

Mr. Obeidat, whose comments were reported by the Tunisian News Agency TAP, spoke on arrival from Algiers at the head of a ministerial team to brief Tunisian officials on the accord.

Variations were observed in the statements by Mr. Obeidat and a senior PLO official who said they would not agree to a joint team for future peace talks.

Deputy commander of the PLO forces Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) said in a statement Friday that the PLO "will not give a mandate to anybody and rejects a joint representation or deputising by any party" in negotiations to solve the Palestinian question.

Mr. Wazir stressed the PLO's rejection of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.

"because it deals with the cause of our people as only a problem of refugees."

In his statement to the Jordan Times, he said that any future political moves by the PLO will be "based on resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council and the Fez Arab summit plan endorsed by Arab countries."

"We emphasise our people's inalienable rights to self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state," Mr. Wazir said, adding that his organisation endorsed "a confederation between the state of Jordan and the state of Palestine."

Mr. Wazir, who left Amman for Tunis to attend a meeting of the Fateh Revolutionary Council, said the PLO will continue to call for the convening of an international Middle East peace conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the United Nations and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict including the PLO on equal footing with other countries.

Mr. Wazir said the PLO has adopted all U.N. resolutions on the Palestinian question and that the organisation will continue to struggle "to end the Israeli occupation of Arab territories including Jerusalem."

He said the PLO will adhere to resolutions adopted by the 16th and 17th sessions of the PNC in its joint Jordanian-Palestinian future moves to solve the Palestinian question.

In separate statements from Tunis, the head of the PLO's political department, Farouq Kaddoumi and Salah Khalaf, number two in Fateh, insisted that the PLO set up its own independent state and have the sole right to represent the Palestinians in any peace talks.

Mr. Kaddoumi said the PLO insisted on the "absolute right of the Palestinian people to self-determination without outside interference and to set up an independent state on its national territory... the PLO is the sole legitimate representative and must take part in efforts for a just settlement in an independent delegation. It rejects absolutely any mandate or shared representation with any party," the statement added.

"Any accord which contradicts these principles cannot be ratified or agreed to," Mr. Kaddoumi said. Mr. Khalaf also insisted on the PLO's right to set up a state and represent the Palestinians at peace talks.

The statements were issued after Mr. Arafat left his Tunis headquarters for Bucharest where he held talks with Romanian leaders.

In Tunis, Mr. Obeidat said the Jordanian-Palestinian accord called for an international conference on the Middle East attended by all parties to the conflict and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

"The PLO will participate in this conference in the framework of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, that is to say on an equal footing with Jordan," the agency quoted him as saying.

PLO sources said the new accord envisaged less than a fully independent state for Palestinians living in territories occupied by Israel during the 1967 war.

One source said the text of the Jordan-PLO accord called for "self-determination within the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation." The PLO accepts the confederation, but after achieving full statehood.

Tunisia, host country for the Arab League, has not commented on the accord, but the pro-government daily La Presse said Thursday that there was once

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Jordan will not negotiate for PLO, Fayez says, page 2

Jordan-PLO accord strengthens Mubarak's hand for talks with Reagan, page 4

M'bow: Politics behind UNESCO crisis

PARIS (R) — UNESCO Director-General Amadou Mahtar M'bow said Friday the troubles faced by his financially beleaguered agency were part of a general U.S. attack against the United Nations system.

Addressing an extraordinary meeting of the 51-nation executive board, Mr. M'bow said the U.S. decision to pull out of the agency last December was a political one.

The move, which deprives UNESCO of a quarter of its budget, followed U.S. and Western complaints that the agency was "mismanaged and over-politicised" under Mr. M'bow's leadership.

Breaking the reserve he maintained during the months leading up to the pullout, Mr. M'bow said: "The real stakes are political. We must have the honesty to recognise it."

He said the former U.S. ambassador to UNESCO, Jean Gerard, had clearly indicated that efforts which began last year to trim the agency's bureaucracy were not enough to keep the United States in.

The U.S. decision to withdraw despite UNESCO's willingness to start reforms was a reflection of the tensions between Western industrialised nations and countries of the Third World, he said. "Certain circles apparently want to call into question the whole foundation of the international system set up in the aftermath of World War II," Mr. M'bow said, in an implicit reference to the Reagan administration.

The attack on the United States came on the fourth day of an extraordinary board meeting called to examine how to cope with a \$43 million budget shortfall caused by the U.S. pullout. Delegates are to adopt a plan of survival Friday, the last day of the session.

Mr. M'bow said staff and administrative cuts would save between \$13 to \$15 million this year. He turned down a Soviet request to sack 143 Americans employed by the agency on the grounds this would violate regulations. He said however that nationals of member states would in future be given preference.



His Majesty King Hussein and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid hold talks in Algiers during a visit the King made to Algeria (Petra photo)

Hussein begins private visit to Spain

Jordan, Algeria agree on ways to tackle Arab issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has concluded a three-day visit to Algeria and began a private visit to Spain expected to last several days. During his visit to Algeria the King held talks with President Chadli Benjedid on Arab affairs and the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

The King presented to President Benjedid a briefing on the recently concluded accord in Amman between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on reactivating efforts for a solution to the Palestine problem. The two leaders also discussed ways for bolstering cooperation between their countries and re-establishing Arab solidarity, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

In a message he sent to President Benjedid Thursday night after leaving Algiers, the King said he was "very pleased that we are agreed in our views on (Arab) issues and the way that these should be tackled to benefit our nation and restore its solidarity," Petra said.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia might stop over in Spain on his return from his current visit to the United States, and King Hussein might hold talks with the Saudi

leader there, Reuters quoted diplomats as saying.

Before King Hussein left Algeria for Spain he expressed his happiness at the visit and the identity of views that emerged from his talks with the Algerian president which he described as good and encouraging indications for the future. The two countries are determined to work jointly for serving the Arab Nation and safeguarding its rights, the King said.

He told reporters that his visit to Algiers was an opportunity for discussing all Arab issues and topics of common concern and was a chance for him to acquaint himself with the great achievements and progress in Algeria. The King also expressed appreciation for the hospitality accorded to him and the Jordanian delegation during the visit.

Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Jaseem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, who accompanied the King in his visit to Algeria, returned to Amman Thursday after a brief stopover in Tunis where they held talks with Tunisian Prime Minister Mohammad Mzali.

Upon his return to Amman, Mr.

Obeidat said Mr. Mzali will pay a visit to Jordan shortly for talks on bilateral cooperation. Mr. Obeidat said that the talks in Amman are expected to deal with ways for activating trade between Jordan and Tunisia and the exchange of officials visits from the private and public sectors to both countries but particularly to promote bilateral cooperation in fertiliser industries and marketing in view of common Jordanian and Tunisian interests in Arab and African countries.

Mr. Obeidat also said that during his talks in Tunis, both Jordan and Tunisia agreed on overcoming financial difficulties arising from the exchange of trade between them and discussed issues pertaining to air transport between Amman and Tunis and ways to overcome them, along with ways for promoting bilateral economic, cultural and trade relations.

The prime minister said he reviewed with Mr. Mzali all points pertaining to the recently concluded Jordanian-Palestinian accord and added that Jordan explained the basic strategy for the agreement and steps to be taken now on the international arena for reactivating efforts for a just Middle East solution.

1 killed in Iraqi raid on Liberian tanker

BAHRAIN (AP) — One Filipino crewman was killed and three others were injured when the Liberian-registered tanker Nepunia was attacked by Iraqi warplanes in the Gulf, the vessel owners and independent shipping sources here reported Friday.

The 57,357-ton petroleum products carrier was manned by a Greek captain and 26 Filipinos when it was rocketed Thursday off the Iranian port of Bushehr, about 65 kilometres southeast of Iran's Kharg Island key oil terminal in the Iran-Iraq war zone.

Bahrain-based maritime shipping executives said the survivors abandoned the vessel which was apparently caught fire and Iranian navy boats and helicopters rushed to their rescue.

The London-based Belacasa Shipping Company said the tanker, also Liberian owned, was "loaded" when attacked.

It confirmed the casualties and said the rest of the survivors had been taken to Bushehr.

"The situation is now under control," a spokesman for the

company told the Associated Press by telex 24 hours after the attack. But he declined to give detail on the extent of the damage sustained by the vessel.

The Iranian news agency, IRNA, had earlier reported the casualties. It was one of the rare Iranian comments on the frequent Iraqi attacks on ships in the Gulf waters.

Iraq said it struck three "naval targets" Thursday, but shipping sources in the region could confirm only the attack on the Nepunia.

The ship attacks are part of Iraq's declared blockade on the ports of its Gulf with the avowed aim of choking off the Iranian economy and pressuring Tehran to end the 52-month-old war.

Out of a total of 33 raids announced by the Iraqis since New Year's Day, only nine were independently confirmed by marine salvage and shipping sources along the Gulf region.

Another crewman, a South Korean, was killed in an earlier ship raid this year.

Tunisia sets deadline for Maghreb talks

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia has set itself a deadline at the end of March for convening a summit meeting of the five countries of the Maghreb (Northwest Africa) in Tunis, diplomatic sources here said Friday.

If it is not possible to hold the summit by then, the proposed meeting will be postponed, the sources said.

Tunisia has been seeking to convene the heads of state of the five countries of the region — Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia — as a way to reduce tensions caused by the 10-year-old Western Sahara conflict.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi, who has travelled to all the states of the region, announced recently that they all agreed in principle to attend the summit.

But differences between Morocco and Algeria over the Western Sahara, where Algerian-backed Polisario Front guerrillas are fighting the Moroccan army, are still apparently hindering the summit.

country and its relations with the United States."

An Israeli military spokesman said the army was investigating the incident.

Mr. Grossman's letter said the soldiers confronted the NBC correspondent, Bonnie Anderson, and the captain demanded the tape cameraman Gary Fairman was shooting at the bridge.

Mr. Grossman said the officer then "tried to wrest the equipment from the neck of the reporter," Jonathan Callery.

Israelis appear ready to quit Awali

SIDON, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli troops appeared ready Friday to abandon their Awali River "front line" as part of the first stage of a three-stage withdrawal from South Lebanon.

One Lebanese traveller walked through the main crossing on the river from the north and told reporters that everything at the Israeli checkpoint looked "packed up ready to go."

Associated Press reporters who drove the 28 kilometres down the coastal highway from the Awali where the new Israeli line is to be said they saw only one Israeli armoured personnel carrier along the road.

It was posted at the Zaharani crossroads that leads to the Trans-Arabian Pipeline (Tapline) oil terminal south of Sidon. The reporters said that only two Israeli soldiers were seen manning the checkpoint.

In the past, there were usually five or six Israeli armoured personnel carriers at the Zaharani intersection, 10 kilometres to south of Sidon, the largest city in Israel's occupation zone.

The Israeli cabinet last month agreed that the first phase of its occupation force's withdrawal from Lebanon would be completed by Monday (See page 2). Reuters adds from Tel Aviv: Israeli troops in South Lebanon will start the second stage of a three-phase withdrawal at the end of April, with the final pullback completed by September, regional commander General Ori Orr said in an interview published Friday.

Gen. Orr, commander of Israeli troops in South Lebanon, told the Yedioth Achronoth newspaper: "In September it will be possible to finish the third phase of the pullback, if there are no delays which do not depend on the army."

Gen. Orr said earlier this week his troops would be in their new positions within hours of receiving the order, and military sources said most units had redeployed already.

Military sources said there had been some 250 attacks on Israeli soldiers and troops of the Israeli-backed South Lebanese Army (SLA) militia in the past six weeks. Israel's death toll since the invasion in June 1982 reached 616 this week.

سكتة من الجاهل

Desertion cuts SLA strength by almost half

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — About 800 men belonging to an Israeli-backed militia have deserted, have been captured or surrendered in the past two weeks, cutting the size of the force by almost a half, security sources said Friday.

They said the "South Lebanon Army" (SLA), which had 2,200 fighters late last year, was now about 1,200-men strong.

Sources in the Shi'ite Muslim Amal Movement say 100 SLA fighters have surrendered or been captured by Amal recently. Sidon Amal Chief Khalil Hamdan told Reuters they are undergoing "political re-education."

The SLA evacuated Sidon on Tuesday, just behind the Awali River front line which the Israelis are due to leave by Monday.

Gen. Ori Orr, the commander of Israeli troops in Lebanon, said this week up to one third of the SLA's soldiers had left the force.

The security sources said that of those remaining, 18 per cent were Shi'ites near the Israeli border and 10 per cent were Druze in the eastern sector of the territory which Israel has occupied since its June 1982 invasion.

The rest were Christians in the border strip and the Jezzine area behind the new front line Israel will set up.

More Israeli casualties

Israeli leaders have warned that the pullback to a new front line in South Lebanon could exact a heavy price in military casualties.

The exact hour of the retreat from the Sidon area, to a line north of the Litani River, is a closely guarded secret.

Senior officers do not hide their misgivings about the defensibility of the new line. It has none of the advantages in terrain of the previous Awali River front, once overlooked a deep ravine, not easily crossed by commandos.

Lebanese militia leaders in Sidon told a Reuters correspondent the new line would leave Israeli troops more exposed

and give commandos freer access to areas where anti-Israeli attacks have been fiercest.

The cabinet last month decided to withdraw from Lebanon, which Israel invaded in June 1982, in three stages, the first to be completed by Feb. 18.

Since the cabinet decision, Shi'ite Muslim commandos have stepped up attacks on Israeli troops, bringing the Israeli death toll since the invasion to 616.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said there was little likelihood the attacks would slacken off after next week's withdrawal.

"Terrorism has not increased in the area we will leave by Feb. 18. It has increased precisely in the area which is to be evacuated in the third stage," he said.

Some Israeli officials hope the pullback will provoke a power struggle between rival commando groups for control of the area evacuated, giving Israeli troops a much-needed breathing space.

"The assumption is they will be so busy fighting each other that they will have less time to attack us," an aide of Prime Minister Shimon Peres said in a briefing.

Gen. Orr said in newspaper interviews Thursday the army was ready to move within four hours of receiving the order.

Military sources said the withdrawal would last only a few hours as most units were already deployed along the new line.

Mr. Peres has rejected suggestions that the second and third stages of the withdrawal should be advanced.

In a television interview Wednesday night, he said the government would stick to its original programme of completing the withdrawal by the summer.

"The whole nation wants an end

to the situation in Lebanon and an end to the casualties, but ending things quickly is not the same as ending them hastily," he said.

Gen. Orr said Israeli troops would concentrate on defending themselves rather than trying to control the area.

One military source told Reuters some attacks on Israeli troops had been carried out by local residents who had previously cooperated with the Israelis and now feared being labelled as collaborators after the retreat.

Mr. Rabin said the Beirut government was encouraging the Shi'ites to step up their attacks and Druze militias north of the Awali were also cooperating with them.

Post-withdrawal policy

Gen. Ori Orr said in an interview Friday with the Yediot Aharonot newspaper that Israel's post-withdrawal defence policy would be aggressive, relying on swift retaliation for attacks against Israeli settlements.

Israel is to complete by Monday the first stage of a three-phased pullout from South Lebanon, which it has occupied since the invasion was launched on June 6, 1982.

The government has announced no timetable for the subsequent stages, but Gen. Orr was quoted as saying he expected the second pullback at the end of April, and the evacuation to be completed in September.

Gen. Orr predicted a resumption of commando attacks across the border after an initial period of quiet during which rival Lebanese factions will establish a balance of power in South Lebanon.

"Israeli troops probably will return to parts of Lebanon. It could be that they will return and then go. It could be that they will return for months," he was quoted as saying.

The general did not say which areas he considered sensitive enough to require an extended Israeli presence.



His Majesty King Hussein during his visit to Algeria

UNIFIL fears clashes with Israelis

BEIRUT (R) — U.N. troops in South Lebanon fear they may get involved in serious clashes with Israeli soldiers cracking down on Shi'ite Muslim villagers to stop mounting commando attacks.

Timor Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), told Reuters after French troops in a southern village had a fistfight with Israelis Tuesday that UNIFIL feared more serious incidents could occur.

"We are always afraid these incidents could escalate and develop into something more serious," Goksel said by telephone from UNIFIL headquarters in the southern village of Naqoura.

"We are in an area with a hysterical population and a hysterical occupying army. We are trying to keep things cool and we are caught in the middle."

Thursday's fistfight broke out when eight French soldiers tried to stop a 150-man Israeli raiding force bulldozing homes and a religious centre in the village of Bourj Rahhal.

Israeli troops are mounting increasingly frequent and heavy raids on Shi'ite villages around the southern city of Tyre where the 600-man French UNIFIL contingent is deployed.

"Villagers shout and throw stones at the Israelis from behind UNIFIL troops and our soldiers don't know what they are there for. They try to keep things cool," Goksel said.

Villagers, who mass in the streets to throw up makeshift barricades and hurl insults and stones

at the Israelis, have criticised UNIFIL for not protecting them from the raids.

The thinly-deployed French appear powerless to stop the Israelis rounding up residents, demolishing buildings and sometimes firing on the inhabitants.

But tempers appear to be rising in the French-occupied area, scene of increasingly frequent and effective commando attacks on the Israelis.

No incidents have been reported recently in areas held by other contingents to the 10-nation, 5,900-man U.N. force.

Thursday's scuffle was the second tense incident in three days between a French unit and Israeli raiders near Tyre.

The region will remain behind the Israeli army's new frontlines after it pulls back from Sidon in a few days, and the Israelis seem determined to bring it under control.

In the two big raids this week, two villagers were killed and three wounded as armoured columns swooped down to round up residents for questioning and to search for arms and suspects.

On Tuesday, U.N. observers with the French in the village of Taura protested to an Israeli officer about Israeli soldiers manhandling residents as they rounded them up.

"The observers were told the soldiers would do as they liked," a U.N. source told Reuters.

The Israelis bulldozed two houses in Taura, saying weapons had been found in them, and took away more than 100 people after

questioning in the presence of a hooded collaborator.

Army officials in Tel Aviv said a Taura man was shot dead and two wounded to quell resistance during the raid.

On Thursday, the Israelis shot dead another man and wounded one when 200 soldiers raided Bourj Rahhal, a village of 2,000 people.

The Israelis in 18 armoured vehicles and two tanks swooped in at 7.00 a.m. (0500 GMT) and stayed until 3.00 p.m. (1300 GMT). When they left, five homes and the prayer house had been bulldozed and 60 people were taken away.

Security sources said the eight French troops in Bourj Rahhal when the Israelis arrived deliberately occupied a house to stop the Israeli bulldozing it, but were ordered out.

"The French refused and a scuffle developed. There was some fistfighting but the French were outnumbered and left," the sources said.

The French UNIFIL contingent sent 30 more soldiers into the village during the eight-hour raid, and UNIFIL's Irish commander, Gen. William Callaghan, sent several staff officers up to the rank of colonel, the sources added.

"The villagers were standing behind our men shouting and gesturing at the Israelis," Goksel said. "We try to soften the Israelis' actions, but we can't do much. It is a difficult situation. It is the first time that a U.N. peacekeeping force has operated in an area where there is an occupying army."

Kidnapped pastor's wife appeals for his release

BEIRUT (R) — The wife of kidnapped American Pastor Benjamin Weir welcomed the news Friday that a U.S. journalist abducted in Beirut last year was free, and called for "anyone with influence" to help release her husband and three other Americans.

Carol Weir, whose husband was abducted in Muslim-held west Beirut last May, told reporters she was happy Jeremy Levin was free after 11 months captivity and said it was "a good sign" for the others.

Mr. Levin, Beirut bureau chief for the U.S. television company Cable News Network (CNN), was handed over to the U.S. embassy in Damascus Friday after earlier reaching a Syrian military post in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley.

Mrs. Weir said if Mr. Levin had escaped there was less hope for her husband "because it means he had a special opportunity which might not occur for my husband."

She added: "If he was released, it was a good gesture."

The caller claiming to represent the "Islamic Jihad" (holy war) group denied Mr. Levin escaped and said it freed him after deciding he was not a spy and receiving "many approaches from brotherly and effective people."

Mrs. Weir said she hoped those holding her husband, a 61-year-old Presbyterian pastor, recognised his contribution to Lebanon after their 30 years work in the country.

"I hope the people who are holding my husband understand that we have always had the interests of this country at heart," she declared.

His work had included bringing food and medicines into west Beirut during the 1982 Israeli siege. "Certainly he was not a spy," Mrs. Weir added.

"I welcome the efforts of anyone who has influence or the trust of the group holding him to help secure my husband's release," she said.

Arab League delegation begins Far East tour

TUNIS (Peira) — An Arab League delegation, headed by Jordan's permanent representative Nabih Al Nimmer, left here Friday for the Far East in a mission aiming to develop relations and revitalise contacts between Arab countries and the countries of the Far East.

The delegation, which also includes the representatives of Tunisia, Iraq and the Arab League, will visit Thailand, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Malaysia.

Mr. Nimmer, in a pre-departure statement, said that the delegation will brief leaders and foreign ministers of these countries on the latest developments in the Middle East.

He said that the Palestinian cause, the Middle East conflict, the Iran-Iraq war and the Israeli

occupation of South Lebanon will be the topics of discussion.

He added that the visit to Sri Lanka has a special significance since it will focus mainly on Sri Lanka's increased shift towards cooperation with Israel which resulted in the opening of an Israeli liaison office at the U.S. embassy in Colombo.

He described the Sri Lankan step as having dangerous consequences which would affect its relations with the Arab World.

He hoped that the Sri Lankan government would reconsider and cancel its decision in this respect to safeguard its friendly relations with Arab countries.

The delegation's tour which comes as a result of the Arab League council resolutions will last until the end of this month.

ATO Executive Council approves 1985 budget

AMMAN (Peira) — The Arab Tourism Organisation's (ATO) Executive Council has approved the ATO's budget for the year 1985 and the study of the organisational structure of the general secretariat, in addition to preparation of a thorough study of the Arab and international organisations, the ATO Secretary General Abdul Rahman Rahab

has said.

Dr. Rahab, who returned to Amman Thursday after attending the first session of the ATO's Executive Council in Tunisia, said he was charged to discuss with the Council of Arab Economic Union (CAEU) the formation of an Arab tourism company with a capital of Kuwaiti dinars (KD) 100 million.

Turkish aide accused of spying

ANKARA (R) — The press counsellor of the Turkish Interior Ministry, Haya Ihan, was arrested Thursday night on suspicion of spying for Libya. His wife said Friday.

Ihan's arrest follows the detention of a Libyan People's Bureau translator and a Turkish journalist, also on spying charges, and Turkish media say the cases are related.

Mukadder Ihan told Reuters she accompanied her husband to security police headquarters from where he was taken to Mamak Military Prison. She said she believed he was innocent.

The semi-official Anatolian News Agency said Friday the three had been arrested for "anti-state activities" and martial law officials were continuing their investigations.

Mubarak to lobby for peace in U.S.

ASWAN, Egypt (R) — President Hosni Mubarak has described the Jordanian-Palestinian accord on a framework for Middle East peace as a step in the right direction and said he would lobby for peace in Washington next month.

"I repeat that the agreement between King Hussein and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat is a step in the right direction and this coordination should help give impetus to the peace process," Mr. Mubarak said.

He spoke at a news conference in this winter resort after two hours of talks with President Jafar Numairi of Sudan on Middle Eastern developments and the famine affecting hundreds of thousands of Ethiopian and Sudanese refugees in Sudan.

Mr. Numairi later flew to Khartoum but Mr. Mubarak's plane was stranded at Aswan due to bad weather in Cairo.

"I believe that this accord provides hope for the future and, God willing, I shall be able to build on this determined bid for peace during my forthcoming visit to Washington and with the European Community," Mr. Mubarak added.

Mr. Mubarak's adviser on political affairs, Osama Baz, earlier called on Israel to respond positively to the accord.

Mr. Baz said the U.S. was committed to an active role in Middle East peace efforts and "had a special responsibility to achieve a comprehensive peace settlement," because of its special relationship with Israel and its interests in the Arab World.

Mr. Baz said the accord combined Arab peace initiatives and U.N. resolutions, including Security Council Resolution 242 which the PLO had previously rejected for ignoring Palestinian demands for self-determination and a homeland.

"The fact that the accord refers to all U.N. resolutions and does not mention 242 means that it has not been rejected," Mr. Baz said.

He urged Arabs to solidify back the accord and said no Arab nation should veto an agreement which represented the wishes of the main protagonists in the Middle East crisis.

The accord constituted a positive step towards forging a united Arab stand and the Arabs could not be asked to make more concessions in the absence of an Israeli response, he added.

Mr. Mubarak's plane was stranded at Aswan due to bad weather in Cairo.

"I believe that this accord provides hope for the future and, God willing, I shall be able to build on this determined bid for peace during my forthcoming visit to Washington and with the European Community," Mr. Mubarak added.

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Iran denounces Fahd's visit to U.S.

TEHRAN (R) — The official Iranian News Agency IRNA has denounced the visit by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd to the United States and his talks with President Reagan on a plan to end the Gulf conflict with Iraq.

It published for the first time details of the plan — said to be sponsored by Kuwait, France, Algeria and Syria as well as Saudi

Arabia — but pointed out that Iran had already rejected it.

According to IRNA the peace proposal calls for return of the two armies to international borders and for the 1975 Algiers Agreement, delineating the border down the Shatt-Al Arab Waterway, to be regarded as the main basis for solving border differences. It also stipulates the est-

ablishment of an international fund for reconstructing war-damaged areas, IRNA said.

"As one can see Iran's main condition for peace is not included in this proposal," IRNA said.

It condemned King Fahd's talks with Mr. Reagan as showing "the degree of Saudi Arabia's determination to Americanise all Arab countries."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
MAIN CHANNEL
Morning Programmes
08:00 Sports
08:25 Children's Programme
08:30 English Teaching
08:50 First Aid
17:00 Koran
17:10 Cartoons
17:30 Children's Programmes
18:00 News in Arabic
18:30 Local Camera
18:50 Local Programme
19:20 News Programme
19:30 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:25 Programme Review
21:30 News in Arabic
21:40 Film Contd.

FOREIGN CHANNEL
17:30 German Programme
18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:15 Fappariement
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Tales of the Unexpected
21:10 Saturday Variety Show
22:00 News in English
22:15 Movie of the Week

RADIO JORDAN
555 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
Party on 95.00 KHz. SW

23:05 Country Music
23:57 News Headlines
24:00 Close down
BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1113 KHz.
06:00 Newsweek 06:30 That's The Trud 06:45
Financial News 6:55 Reflections 07:00
World News 07:09 News Summary
07:30 About Britain 07:45 The World
Today 08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Album
Time 08:50 World News 09:09 24
Hours: News Summary 09:30 From the
Weekend 09:45 Network 10.00
World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 A
Jolly Good Show 11:00 World News
11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The
World Today 11:30 Financial News
11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Handel in
London 12:00 News Summary 12:15
Letter from America 12:30 People and
Politics 13:00 World News 13:09 News
About Britain 13:15 About Britain
13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio Newsweek
14:15 Anything Goes 14:45 Sports
Round-up 15:00 World News 16:09 24
Hours: News Summary 16:30 People and
Politics 16:50 World News 17:09 News
Summary 17:30 Radio Newsweek
17:45 Saturday Special 18:00 World
News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Sat-
urday Special 19:00 appz News Sum-
mary: Saturday Special 20:00 Newsweek
20:30 Baker's Half Dozen 21:00 News
Summary: The Case of Catherine Man-
sfield 21:00 World News 21:09 24
Hours: News Summary 22:30 Jazz for
the Ailing 23:00 My Country in Mind
23:15 What's New 23:30 People and Pol-
itics 24:00 World News 00:09 From our
own Correspondent 00:30 New Ideas
00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-
up 01:00 World News 01:09 Commen-
tary 01:15 Letterbox 01:30 Meri-
dian

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and 15210 KHz.
06:00 VOA Morning: News, Informal
Presentation of Popular Music with Fea-
ture Reports, Interviews, Answers to
Listeners' Questions, Science Digest.
17:00 Talking Points
17:30 Animal Vegetable Mineral
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
19:00 News
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 The 15th Century A.D.
20:30 The Young Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 25 Years of Rock
21:25 News Summary
22:00 News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

* Design and Industry exhibition at
Yarmouk University Gymnasium 9:00-
12:00 and 14:00 to 17:00

* Photographs of sites in Jerusalem at
the Royal Cultural Centre.

* A Cultural Week at the Housing Bank
Complex.

* Der Handler Der Vier Jahreszeiten
(English subtitles) at the Goethe In-
stitute. 8:00 p.m.

* Cultural Centres

Royal Cultural Centre. Tel. 6610267
American Centre. 44371
British Council. 36147-8
French Cultural Centre. 37009
Goethe Institute. 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre. 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre. 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre. 39777
Haya Arts Centre. 665195
Hussein Youth City. 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.A. 664251
Yaman Municipal Library. 36111
University of Jordan Library. 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes
over 100 years old. Also toys from
Madaba and Jerash 14th to 19th
centuries. The Roman Theatre.
Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5
p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an
excellent collection of the antiquities of
Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill).
Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(

Arar chairs land transport meeting in Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Suleiman Arar Thursday chaired a meeting here to discuss problems in the transportation field. Attending the meeting were ministers of municipal and rural affairs and the environment, public works and transport as well as the president of the Aqaba Urban

Development Authority, Aqaba district governor and other officials. They discussed the organisation of land transport operations and a report by an ad hoc committee on transport-related affairs. The ministers were to continue their meeting Friday about the same subject with local officials.

Authority approves Dead Sea complex, reviews regulations for travel

AMMAN (Petra) — A project for a large recreation and tourist complex at the Dead Sea area was approved Friday by the board of directors of the Jordan Tourist Authority, according to the authority's acting-director general, Mr. Rafiq Al Laham.

Mr. Al Laham told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the project aims to serve the needs of both external and domestic tourism. He said that the board also discussed a number of subjects pertaining to the licensing and control of tourism institutions in the country. Mr. Al Laham said that a special committee was set up and entrusted with formulating rules to regulate the works and services and to licence and update licences for hotels, travel and tourism agencies and oriental shops.

Mr. Al Laham added that the board also discussed the subject of organising tourist groups and de-

ided that a certain percentage of foreign tourists must enter Jordan in relation to the number of Jordanian tourist groups travelling abroad.

He said that the board views the role of travel and tourist agents to be of service to Jordan's tourism and therefore decided on the closure of certain agencies because of their continued violation of regulations. Mr. Al Laham pointed out the importance of Jordan's archaeological sites and the need to protect them. He said that the board decided to build a cover for the protection of the newly-unearthed Madaba mosaic in cooperation with the Franciscan Archaeological School.

He added that the board will hold another meeting to review a study on the tourist sector made by a consultancy company and financed by the European Community.



DEFENCE DELEGATION DEPARTS: A delegation from the Italian Military Defence College left Amman Thursday at the end of a week-long visit to Jordan. During the visit they met with officials and toured military positions and archaeological sites in the country. The delegation was seen off by Assistant Army Chief of Staff Hilmi Lawzi and senior army officers (Petra photo)

Snow to continue for coming 24 hours

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A frontal depression formed in the Central Mediterranean is moving gradually eastwards to north Syria and this will result in continuous snow fall in the Kingdom for the next 24 hours. Meteorology Department Director General Ali Abanda announced Friday.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Abanda explained that the depression was formed Thursday in the Central Mediterranean and it moved quickly eastwards towards Cyprus causing a very cold polar air mass to blow towards the East Mediterranean, including Jordan.

Two active cold fronts crossed Jordan Thursday from the north west and resulted in heavy rains in north and central regions of the Kingdom, Dr. Abanda said. He added that another very cold front crossed the Kingdom on Friday afternoon causing a further drop in temperature and snowfall over hilly areas of more than 750 metres in height.

The depression is expected to affect all parts of the Kingdom, including the southern and eastern parts. The wind is very strong amounting to 70 kilometres per hour at times. The Gulf of Aqaba will be partly cloudy with scattered showers, the wind will be northerly strong and the seas rough.

The quantity of rain fall within the last 24 hours, estimated in millimetres, is as follows: Queen Alia International Airport 12, Amman Civil Airport 28, Amman Mun-

icipality 38, Qatrania 5, Amman Governorate 30, Madaba 9, Wadi Al Seer 15, Sweileh 38, Dheban 8, Sahab 11, Na'our 20, Al Areeed 7, Shafa Badran 12.5, Al Quweseim 7.5, Hussein Sports City 31.5, Al Koura 18, Ajloun 48.5, Al Ramtha 13, Al Turra 14.5, Dhuneibeh 27.7, Housha 11.5, Jarash 33, Ras Muneef 49.2, Al Shounch Al Shemalich 10.7, Al Mafrag 15, Balama 6, Al Khaledieh 8.2, Al Hoson 40, Ma'an 2, Al Husseinieh 3.5, Adhroh 4, Western Naqab 2.5, Eastern Naqab 4, Wadi Mousa 1, Arabbeh 11, Karak 5, Gatrana 4, Al Oaser 5, Mazar 1, Al Rashadieh 3, Zarqa 10, Zarqa Refinery 9, Al Hashemieh 8, Al

Sukheh 15, Perea 10, Al Halabat 6, Schneller 11, Tafleh 7.5 and Ma'an Airport 2.

Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Rawabdeh and Amman Governor Turki Al Hindawi Friday made a tour of the city and followed up on the measures taken by municipality personnel to face any emergency situations arising from the heavy down-pour.

The municipality's emergency troops have embarked on rescue tasks and clearing blocked culverts. Mr. Rawabdeh asked municipal zones and regions to maintain an emergency condition all through the night lest heavy snow falls.



The wreckage of Mr. Abdul Fattah Ahmad's car which was destroyed by a collision with a truck at the Ain Ghazal-Sports City Highway junction resulting in the death of Mr. Ahmad and serious injuries to his wife who was a passenger in the vehicle (Al Rai photo)

Man dies in car crash, wife sustains injuries

AMMAN (J.T.) — A man was killed and his wife was seriously injured in a road accident which occurred in Amman Thursday afternoon.

The accident took place on the Ain Ghazal-Sports City highway when a private car, driven by Abdul Fattah Ahmad (38) and heading for Zarqa stopped abruptly at the traffic lights. This caused a dump truck travelling in the

opposite direction, and at a great speed, to collide with it in great force.

The private car was completely destroyed and the dumper truck sustained serious damage. Mr. Abdul Fattah Ahmad was pronounced dead upon arrival at the Jordan University Hospital while his wife was admitted for treatment for her serious injuries.

Lower House speaker meets Egyptian prime minister

Jordan will not negotiate for PLO, Fayeze says

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan will not negotiate on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and will not take any peace initiative in isolation of Arab countries. Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayeze said Thursday.

In an interview with the Egyptian Arabic daily newspaper Al Ahrar, Mr. Fayeze said that the formula presented by His Majesty King Hussein for an international peace conference comes within the framework of the United Nations and Security Council resolutions.

The joint Jordanian-Palestinian move is aimed at liberating the occupied Arab territories and relieving the Palestinian people under occupation from their suffering ensuing from the Israeli pressures on them, Mr. Fayeze said.

Mr. Fayeze called on the United States to exercise pressure on Israel to accept the proposed peaceful initiatives. He stressed the importance of holding an Arab

summit to unify the Arabs in order to enable them face the challenges and he called on Arab parliamentarians to play their role in establishing peace through bilateral and multi-lateral consultations and meetings.

Mr. Fayeze, currently on an official visit to Egypt at the invitation of Speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly Rifat Mahjoub, Wednesday night attending a dinner banquet hosted by Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Hussein Hammami in honour of him and the Jordanian parliamentary delegation accompanying him.

Fayeze meets Ali
Earlier on Thursday Mr. Fayeze

met with Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali who praised King Hussein's courageous step to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt. Mr. Ali outlined the importance of the Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian role to achieve positive results to the Palestine question.

In a reply speech during the meeting, Mr. Fayeze said that Arab disunity only serves Israel and provides it with the opportunity to continue its occupation of Arab territories and to impose its 'fait accompli' policy through establishing more Israeli settlements and expelling Arab citizens from their lands.

Mr. Fayeze also stressed Jordan's interest in achieving a just and peaceful settlement to the Palestine question through an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

Attending the meetings were Dr. Rifat Mahjoub, Mr. Hammami and senior members of the Jordanian embassy staff.

Egyptian economic delegation due soon to sign cement contract, discuss trade

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Egyptian trade delegation is due in Amman within the next week for economic and trade talks with Jordanian officials. Director General of the Trade Centres Corporation at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Mohammad Bani Hani said that the delegation's visit will include signing a purchase contract to export one million tonnes of Jordanian cement to the Egyptian market and they will also discuss the implementation of a bilateral trade protocol signed last year after the normalisation of diplomatic ties with Egypt.

The trade protocol, which was signed in Cairo, stipulates the exchange of selected goods via the two governments and the private sectors in both countries. The protocol also provides for a barter agreement which allows for equal goods transactions between the public sector export and import companies in both countries and a purchase of one million tonnes of Jordanian cement, worth \$36 million. The cement purchase has not been endorsed yet, however, the two sides are conducting an economic feasible study on transportation and price.

In December 1984 a Jordanian delegation headed by Ministry of Industry and Trade Under Secretary Ibrahim Badran visited Egypt and conferred with Egyptian external trade, housing and construction ministers and senior trade officials. They discussed the

projected selected items to be exchanged and signed an agreement for implementing the first phase of the trade protocol.

The selected Jordanian products, due to be exported to Egypt, ranged from textiles, refrigerators and leather products to detergents and electric heaters.

Cement deal delay

A one-million tonne Jordanian cement deal has been delayed due to a price dispute; the Egyptian side, represented by the Cement Supply Bureau (CSB) has offered \$36 million for the cement while the South Cement Company of Jordan (SCC) did not accept the price. However, negotiations continue to find out a compromise for the endorsement of the cement deal, Dr. Badran said.

Egypt represents the largest market in the Middle East for imports of cement; it consumes 14.5 million tonnes a year from which 9 million tonnes are imported from several countries.

JDA prepares for conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The preparatory committee for the fourth dentists' conference has sent invitations to officials of the Higher Education Council, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Information.

The invitees will discuss during the conference a working paper entitled "Dentists: Present and Future" which aims to discuss

Jordan's needs of dentists. The conference, scheduled to start here on April 18, will also discuss a number of issues pertaining to the scientific and professional promotion of dental services in Jordan.

The conference will be attended by delegates from Arab countries, the World Health Organisation, Jordan and Yarmouk Universities.

Corporation aims to expand market outlets

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation director general said that the corporation is currently embarking on new plans to expand its work in the interest of Jordanian exporters by assisting them to increase their exports to Arab and foreign markets. One of the plans the corporation is considering is to establish a nucleus for financing Jordanian exports by allocating a specific amount of money to finance some Jordanian exports to Arab markets.

Swiss envoy, Lawzi discuss Mideast

AMMAN (Petra) — Swiss Ambassador to Jordan Andre Louis Vallon Thursday visited Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi to discuss Middle East developments and the importance of Europe's role in finding a just solution to the Palestine problem. The visit was to mark the end of Mr. Vallon's term as ambassador of Switzerland to Jordan.

Court sentences briber to 3 months

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Mahmoud Mohammad Issa to three months in prison and fined him JD 10 for offering a bribe to a civil servant. The military governor has endorsed the sentence.

'Jordan, PLO envisage joint team'

(Continued from page 1)

again room for hope in the Middle East.

The current diplomatic initiatives "represent a victory over the resignation which seemed to have taken over the Arab parties... The Arab parties have stopped praying for miracles in order to act," the newspaper said.

Meanwhile, Damascus-based factions of the PLO Friday renewed their criticism of the Jordan-PLO agreement.

Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, both issued separate statements criticising the agreement and charging that it violated PNC resolutions. The statements also said the two groups have launched efforts to block the implementation of the accord.

Egypt has called on Israel and the United States to respond favourably to the Palestinian-Jordanian accord on a framework for Middle East peace.

A presidential spokesman said Israel had not matched the accord and urged Washington to exert influence on Tel Aviv.

He spoke as Presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Jafar Numeiri of Sudan consulted on Middle East developments before Mr. Mubarak's talks in Washington next month.

Kuwaiti newspapers have said the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement recognises Israel's right to exist.

"An apparent acceptance of United Nations decisions relating to the Palestinian issue... means also recognition of decisions that themselves acknowledge Israel's right to exist," Al Rai Al Aam said in an editorial.

An editorial carried by the English-language Arab Times, said the plan had come too late. "It should have come in 1967," it said, adding Israel had gained an advantage from all international peace initiatives since then.

Meanwhile, the Arab League has questioned Israel's readiness to recognise the rights of Palestinians.

An Arab League spokesman said in a statement: "After the publication of the Arab peace plan (of 1982), the real question is: Is Israel disposed to recognise the rights of the Palestinian people as a national entity with the right to demand a homeland and a state?"

The spokesman was responding

to remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres in a television interview Wednesday that the Palestinians were hindering the peace process by refusing to recognise Israel or accept United Nations Resolution 242.

Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Friday dismissed as a "propaganda trick" the Jordan-PLO agreement.

Mr. Shamir was quoted in an interview with the Maariv newspaper as saying the agreement did not go far enough to satisfy "even the minimalists in Israel" who favour exchanging parts of the occupied West Bank in exchange for peace.

Mr. Shamir's Likud bloc opposes returning any part of the occupied West Bank to Arab sovereignty. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shimon Peres summoned a meeting of the 10-member cabinet committee on security affairs to discuss the Jordan-PLO accord, Israel Radio said.

Discussions of the top cabinet body are kept secret.

Mr. Peres, in a television interview on Wednesday, called the agreement "a step forward," but not enough to allow peace talks to begin.

Later on Friday, Mr. Levin left Syria for a reunion with his wife in Germany.

"I cannot wait to get to my wife, to hold her," said Mr. Levin, a tear rolling down his left cheek as he boarded a chartered Citation executive jet at Damascus airport for the flight to Frankfurt.

His wife, Lucille, arrived Friday in Frankfurt.

Mrs. Levin smiled and waved at newsmen as she was whisked away in a car from the runway at Rhein-Main air base, where she arrived on a U.S. air force jet.

She was accompanied on the flight from Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, by about a dozen people, including a young woman believed to be her daughter.

U.S. journalist recounts escape

(Continued from page 1)

that there were four other people in the apartment where I was.

"My room, where I was kept, was next to the bathroom and they would blindfold me to take me to the bathroom. When I wanted to leave, I would knock on the door and they would come and open the door."

He said every morning and evening he heard four other knocks and figured there must be four other people there. "My conclusion was they were probably American... just a guess."

The other four Americans who have disappeared are Roman Catholic priest Lawrence Jenco,

librarian Peter Kilburn, Evangelical pastor Ben Weir and U.S. embassy Political Officer William Buckley (wife appeals for pastor's release, page 2).

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara'a, who presented Mr. Levin to U.S. Ambassador William Eagleton, told Mr. Levin that President Hafez Al Assad "asked me to convey to you personally that he is very glad that you are back, safe and well. He sends to you his best greetings."

Mr. Levin answered: "Please send him my greetings, and I understand that you and your ministry were very kind to my wife during the two trips that she made here, and you have my eternal gratitude."

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Accord gives Mubarak bread for trip to U.S.

By Robert H. Reid
Associated Press

CAIRO — An agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation on a "framework for common action" for peace in the Middle East could give Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak ammunition to push the United States into reviving the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Mubarak travels to Washington for a March 12 meeting with President Ronald Reagan, during which, officials say, he will urge the U.S. leader to launch a new diplomatic effort to bring Israel and the Arabs to the bargaining table.

The Jordan-PLO agreement will enable Mr. Mubarak to argue forcefully that both Jordan and Yasser Arafat's wing of the fragmented Palestinian movement are ready for serious diplomatic

efforts to settle the status of the 1.3 million Palestinians on the Israeli-held West Bank of the Jordan River and Gaza Strip.

The United States, stung by its diplomatic and military setback in Lebanon, has been reluctant to launch a new diplomatic initiative as long as the Arabs remain divided on the best course for peace.

A senior U.S. official, briefing reporters in Washington last week in advance of the arrival of Saudi King Fahd, told reporters the Saudis would like the United States to take a more active role in Middle East diplomacy but added, "the key to it is to have someone to talk to on the Arab side."

No details of the Jordan-PLO agreement have been released officially by either side and so it remains unclear whether the pact represents a major breakthrough. However, almost any agreement would enable Mr. Mubarak and

other Arab leaders to argue that a sizeable bloc of the Arab World now is committed to peace with Israel.

In Amman, a PLO official alluded to the central role the Egyptians have played in PLO-Jordanian deliberations. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said details of the agreement would not be made public until after Mr. Mubarak had been briefed on them.

Mr. Mubarak's chief political adviser, Osama El-Baz, was in Amman during the Jordan-PLO talks and flew back to Cairo late Monday to brief the Egyptian president on the outcome.

After conferring with Mr. El-Baz, Mr. Mubarak refused to reveal details of the agreement to reporters, describing it merely as "a good step forward towards coordination between the PLO and Jordan."

His description reinforced spe-

culation among PLO and other informed sources that the "agreement" is more of an "understanding" than a detailed formula, and that it was largely aimed at showing interest among moderate Arabs in negotiating a settlement with Israel.

Only a few days before the agreement was announced, PLO, Egyptian and Western diplomatic sources in Cairo had been saying the PLO and Jordan remained far apart on the terms of a joint peace formula and that it appeared unlikely they would narrow their differences before Mr. Mubarak's trip.

Then on Saturday, Mr. El-Baz flew to Amman for what Cairo said would be a one-day visit. Instead he remained past Mr. Arafat's arrival Sunday and word of the "agreement" on Monday.

During King Hussein's visit to Cairo in December, Prime Min-

ister Kamal Hassan Ali told reporters that an agreement between Jordan and the PLO was crucial to arranging any peace talks with Israel.

The Egyptians have been pressing for a joint Jordanian-PLO agreement as a means of overcoming the refusal by Israel and the United States to bargain with the PLO.

Although Mr. Arafat has refused the idea of Jordan negotiating on the PLO's behalf, Egyptian diplomatic sources say, nonetheless, the idea of a joint strategy offers the best chance for diplomatic movement towards a peaceful settlement.

Central to the success of the strategy is acceptance by other Arab states and the Americans. Syria and Libya, which support anti-Arafat groups in the PLO, have already denounced the idea of any Jordan-PLO moves.

Saeed Kamal, Mr. Arafat's un-

official representative in Cairo, said he expected Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Algeria would support any joint Egyptian-PLO-Jordanian moves and there was a possibility others would do so too.

During his talks in Washington, King Fahd called on the United States to resolve the Palestinian problem but avoided any public response to Mr. Reagan's call for direct peace talks with Israel.

Mr. Mubarak has said repeatedly that there can be no progress towards peace talks without the strong support of the United States because of its close ties to Israel.

In a commentary Tuesday, the state-run Egyptian daily Al-Akhar noted Egypt's efforts towards "a unified Arab stand," saying it afforded the only chance for "effective pressure on the United States" to bring territorial concessions out of Israel.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al-Ra'i: Jordan-PLO accord irritates Shamir

WE WERE not surprised by Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir's negative reaction to the recent Jordanian-Palestinian accord. He said that the agreement does not serve the cause of peace. We were not surprised either by his call on U.S. administration to ignore this accord because he said it was a trap for Washington.

Israel's attack on the accord reflects Tel Aviv's disappointment at seeing the PLO and Jordan in agreement on a joint formula, and a manifestation of anxiety on the part of the Israeli leaders about a wider agreement among Arab states and the start of a dialogue between the Arabs and Washington.

Shamir's statements do not change anything because the Jordan-PLO accord represents a positive step for reactivating efforts for solving the Palestine problem. The Israeli negative reaction to the accord should prompt the Arab countries to take speedy steps towards unifying their stand and putting an end to Israel's expansionist designs in their lands.

We are encouraged by the talks which King Fahd held in Washington and are full of hopes about President Mubarak's coming talks with the American administration. We hope that these talks will pave the way for peace that would halt all Israel's plans in our lands.

Al-Dustour: Wasting time addressing Washington

THOUGH IT is reported that Washington welcomed the recent Jordanian-Palestinian accord, yet it still insists on rejecting the idea of an international conference on the Middle East. This stand displays that Washington continues to support Israel's views with regard to the Palestine question.

Also, following the talks in the American capital between President Reagan and King Fahd, the president said that the U.S. would like to see direct negotiations between Jordan and Israel and that Washington refuses to talk to the PLO.

On the other hand, Israel has displayed strong negative reaction to a call by Washington for direct talks between Israel and Syria on the future of the Golan Heights, which Israel considers as part of Israel. Shamir announced in a meeting in Tel Aviv that the Golan was part of the land of Israel and Minister of Industry Ariel Sharon paid a visit to the occupied Golan Heights in order to assure the settlers there that there can be no compromise on the land which has become part of Israel. Sharon said that Israel intends to build more settlements in the territory soon.

Therefore, the U.S. and Israeli reactions to Arab bids for a just peace seem to assume the same nature, and Arab hopes of persuading Washington of changing its attitude is a waste of time.

Sawt Al-Shaab: Two requirements for going ahead

THE JORDANIAN-Palestinian moves on the Arab scene following their joint accord to reactivate efforts to solve the Palestine problem represent a new ray of hope for the Arabs. The accord has been met with warm welcome by the Arab inhabitants under Israeli rule and drew support from Arab countries which have been plagued by internal divisions and adversely affected by continued Israeli aggressions in Lebanon and Palestine and the on-going war in the Gulf.

The joint accord came to give impetus to the efforts being made to find a just solution to the Palestinian problem but at the same time formed a nucleus for the Arabs to gather their force and unify their ranks. Two things are required now: Re-building solidarity among Arab states and working in consensus for solving the Middle East problem.

Perhaps the Jordan-PLO accord reached in Amman constitutes a starting point for the required solidarity and forms a basis for a pan-Arab strategy which can be employed in the quest for peace in the Middle East.

The Jordanians and Palestinians have been most affected by Israel's occupation, and they have the right now to work together for regaining their land. They have the right and the will to choose their course of action and should be backed by all Arabs.

Thursday's

Al-Ra'i: Solid base for Arab moves

THE TALKS which King Hussein held in Algiers with President Chadli Benjedid were welcomed by Algerian newspapers, which also backed the recently concluded accord between the PLO and Jordan. The Jordan-PLO accord also received backing from the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories and by Arab countries which saw in it a positive development towards solving the Palestine issue.

The accord should in fact be supported by all Arab states so that it can have a strong ground and a very firm basis. It should be developed into a comprehensive Arab strategy that can be employed to find just solutions to the problems of the region.

The Arabs should seize the favourable situation now prevailing around the world and take their issue to the European Community and make use of the coming American-Soviet talks in Geneva. They should not leave a stone unturned in search for a solution to their problem.

The recent accord reached in Amman should give the Arabs a good and strong ground to stand on, and they should build on it strong Arab solidarity.

Al-Dustour: Wise Lebanese understanding

IT IS encouraging to see the various factions in Sidon coming to agreement about preventing any disturbances in their region following Israel's pullout in the coming days. They are taking this very important step despite instigations by the Israelis and despite the conspiracies being hatched on Lebanon by their backed militia.

The opening of the coastal road south of Beirut down to Sidon was also instrumental in bringing these warring factions together in a bid to avoid further bloodshed and to prevent their area from becoming a battlefield, thus thwarting all Israeli dreams of dismembering the South and fragmenting Lebanon further.

A look at the wrongs of America's political right

By William Pfaff

PARIS — The opinion that the United States is an exception to the rule of history, an impartial and uniquely disinterested force in world affairs, has been an important factor in the transatlantic relationship. This was so at the time of World War I and the Versailles Treaty, and again during the 1940s and 1950s.

It had, however, to fade. Americans may have their share of idealism, but they have interests too. They sometimes find the two difficult to distinguish and certainly make mistakes. Vietnam, and the presidencies of Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter, produced a different European view of America. This marked an important change in the Atlantic alliance and in a measure, a destabilising one.

Now Europeans hear from Washington a new expression of American exceptionalism. The people in and around the Reagan administration maintain that they have seen the future, that it works (the most rapid U.S. growth in gross national product for 33 years), and that it will work for every other country, too, from Finland through to Bangladesh.

These Americans have a message to preach, that of free-market, supply-side, economics, and the reduction of central government power. Individual and group initiatives are to take over from central government, so far as this can be done. The difficulties to be expected in adapting the American new right's political programme to societies organised in a different way than federal America, with different historical expectations of government, does not cause these Americans much pause. They are not really interested in foreign complications, and in any case easily find acolytes abroad for whom citing the American message is a useful weapon in their own political battles. This is the case in France, where the American new right's programme has enthusiastically been adopted by the ex-Gaullist RPR, or Rassemblement pour la République, party of the mayor of Paris, Jacques Chirac, formerly a zealous practitioner of central government intervention in the 300-year-old French tradition.

The American advocates of the new conservatism see themselves bringing about a change in Washington as important and lasting

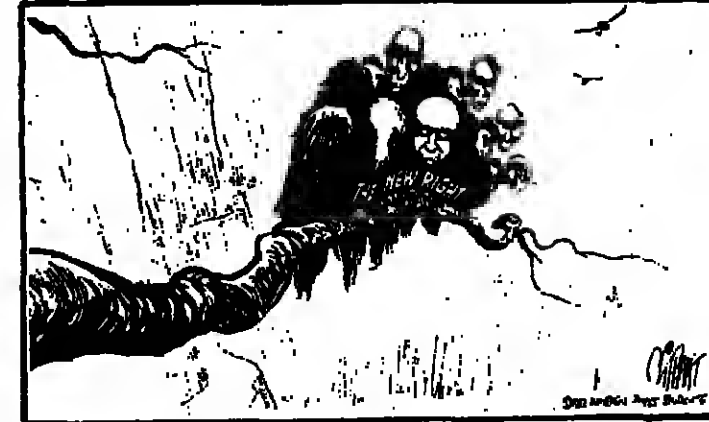
as Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal in the 1930s. But that very reference is a reminder that they are not as original as they think. Mr. Roosevelt took over from a Republicanism just as committed to "getting government out of business," and to rugged individualism, as is Ronald Reagan. During the years when Warren G. Harding and Calvin Coolidge were president, the mood of America was even more conservative than it is today. Democracy was looked upon with suspicion; America, after all, is a republic. "Democracy," said a U.S. government publication in the 1920s, is "government of the masses... Attitude towards property is communistic — negating property rights (and) results in demagogism, license, agitation."

When Herbert Hoover accepted the Republican Party presidential nomination in 1928, he said that he believed — as does President Ronald Reagan today — that America was on the move: "Given a chance to go forward with the (Republican) policies of the last eight years, we shall soon, with the help of God, be in sight of the day when poverty will be banished from this nation."

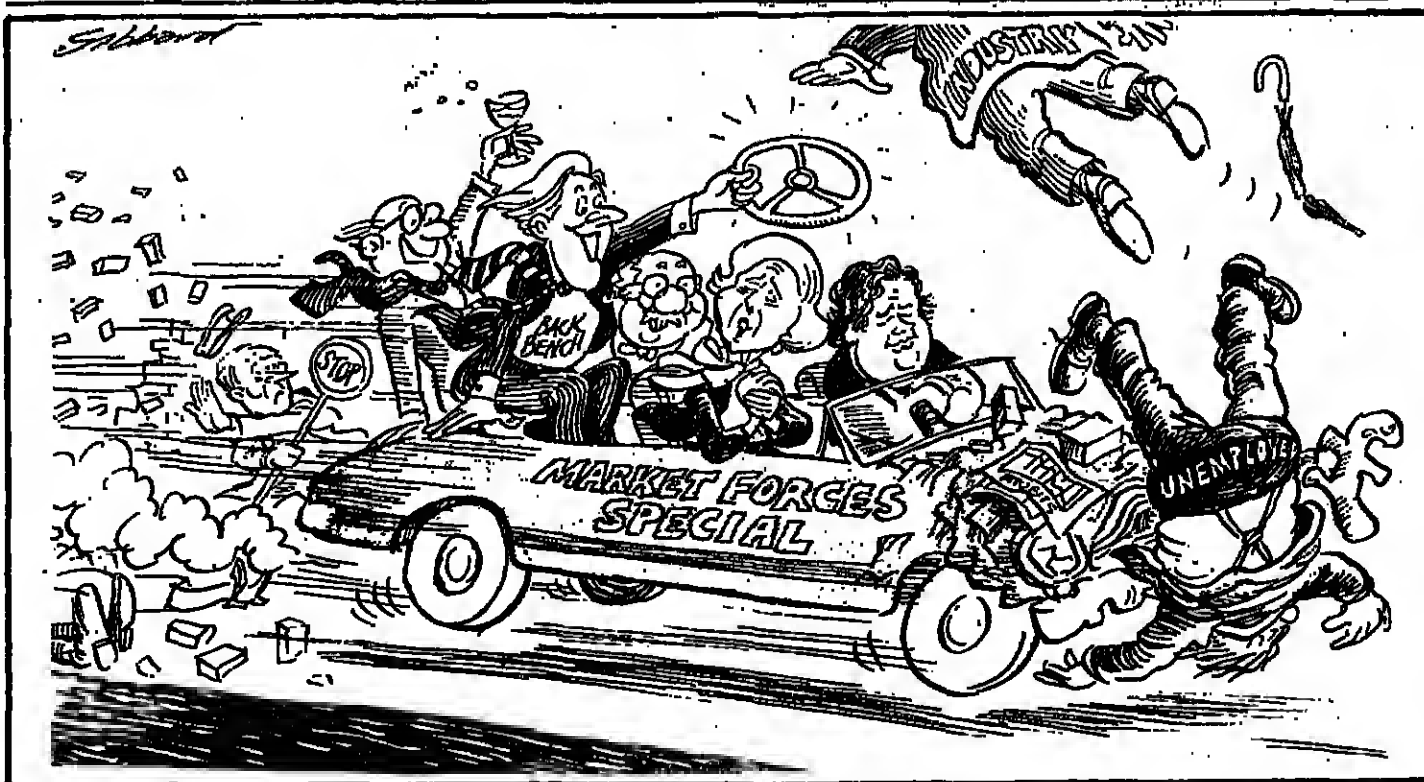
God did not cooperate: six months after Mr. Hoover took office the crash came. By the time he handed over to Franklin Roosevelt he could say, "We are at the end of our string." The free market had demonstrated just how perverse it could be. Mr. Roosevelt's subsequent efforts to redress it did not get far, until the demands of war production eventually restored a grim prosperity to the country.

The real trouble with the American right is that it is neither sophisticated about its own history nor very intelligent. A useful classification of the right as it exists in contemporary Europe identifies, first, the business-minded right, favouring the free market, traditional in social and political outlook. Next is the nationalist and authoritarian right ("Bonapartism" in France). Lastly, there is an intellectual and "realist" right, which includes major thinkers like Alexis de Tocqueville in France, Edmund Burke in England, the late Raymond Aron in France. An equivalent tradition does not exist on the American right.

That tradition exists nonetheless in the United States, Wal-



ter Lippmann, Hannah Arendt, Hans Morgenthau, Reinhold Niebuhr and George Kennan have been among its representatives in recent U.S. university life and journalism. But the American right regards such people as dangerous leftists, chiefly because they are, or have been, opposed to the aggressive nationalism and the Manichean world view of the right. The result has been the decapitation of American conservatism. The American right, as it is today, combines business and boardroom economics with jingoism, and a credulous, anti-communist, inflexibly rightist, and has always been, second-rate. This makes life difficult for those who want to find deep and universal significance in the message promulgated these days from Washington. The people in Washington claim to have invented the bicycle. The foreign observer remarks that it looks strikingly familiar; he is sure that he has seen such a vehicle before. The Washingtonian says, "I have found the way to solve the world crisis." The observer, to borrow a phrase from Gertrude Stein, examines the solution, and is troubled to find that there is no there, there. International Herald Tribune.



'Oh what a charming use for that funny round thing — that'll stop people telling me to use it in change directinn' (Guardian cartoon)

A weekly bus links N. Cyprus with South

By Katherine McElroy
Reuters

NICOSIA — The bus comes every Friday to the Red Cross station in south Nicosia, bringing Greek Cypriots from the Turkish Cypriot North across the "green line" which divides the Mediterranean island between two ethnic communities.

Split families, victims of the 10-year Cyprus rift, reunite emotionally but briefly.

Turkey invaded and occupied the northern third of Cyprus in 1974 after a coup by supporters of the military junta which held power in Greece at the time.

Some 200,000 Greek Cypriots fled south as refugees but about 1,500 remain under Turkish Cypriot rule, often separated from children or relatives. Fewer than 50 Turkish Cypriots are thought to remain in the south.

The Red Cross bus ferries south some 25 of these "enclaved" Greek Cypriots, as they are known, each week.

"We still hope for a solution," one elderly man waiting in the Red Cross reception room said. But he said the failure of talks last month between the leaders of the two communities aimed at reuniting Cyprus, had been a great disappointment.

"Our hopes have diminished,

but all of us staying on in the north still hope," he added.

None of the bus passengers wanted to be named.

A middle-aged Greek Cypriot farmer spoke of his neighbours, settlers from Turkey. Several thousand Turks, many from remote eastern provinces, have moved to the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, recognised only by Ankara.

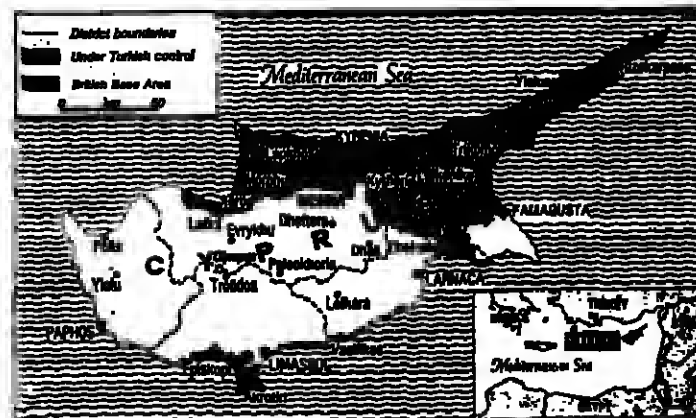
A government official said most of those who travel south — mainly the old — come to see doctors and permission is usually granted by Turkish Cypriot authorities after 15 days' notice.

"Permits are given for one week. If they stay longer and don't have a good reason or a doctor's note, they may not be allowed south again for six months or a year," he said.

Greek Cypriot officials say the status of children leaving their parents to come south for secondary education is a major problem. There are no Greek language high schools in the north.

"They would like to see their parents more often, especially during the long summer break, but they are not allowed north. Their parents have to visit them," one official said.

But a farmer complained: "It costs too much. It's seven pounds (\$11) each to come over to the



Red Cross station."

An official said the government gives Greek Cypriots in the north monthly subsidies of 48 pounds (\$77) per couple or 33 pounds (\$53) per single person.

Turkish Cypriot authorities consider children who come south to high school as "permanent transfers," said Polyvios Nicolaou, a government humanitarian affairs official.

They are not allowed back under regular movement procedures for the enclaved, and the last time students of 12 years or more were allowed home to the north was Christmas 1979, he said.

"He northern authorities want them to sign visa applications.

Most are too young to sign legally anyway," he said, adding none had filled in the forms. Most Greek Cypriots refuse to recognise or sign northern state papers.

"It is a matter of time before there are no enclaved. On average 100 a year either move south or die," Mr. Nicolaou said.

"The division of families becomes complete as children grow up and start their own families in the south," he added.

Elections to spotlight churches' role in Zimbabwe politics

By Francis Mvumba
Reuters

HARARE — Church and state in Zimbabwe are eyeing each other uneasily as the country gears up for its first post-independence elections which are due by next month.

Setting the tone of what might become a church-state confrontation, Foreign Minister Witness Mangwende recently accused unnamed churches of meddling in politics.

"We don't stop people from worshipping God in Zimbabwe, but churches must not be used for political activities," he told a rally at which he scathingly attacked minority opposition leader Bishop Abel Muzorewa, also head of the United Methodist Church.

Officials of Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Fronts (ZANU-PF) Party have expressed similar sentiments.

In reply, Bishop Muzorewa told Reuters: "The whole accusation by Mangwende is totally false and I challenge him to prove it. I think he said it because he noticed there were more people in churches worshipping God than at ZANU-PF rallies on Sundays."

Zimbabwe's Roman Catholic bishops have openly urged the government to ensure the general elections are free and fair.

In what is thought to be an unprecedented move, the seven bishops said that for the poll to produce an acceptable verdict, there had to be peace in the country and all political parties should be allowed to campaign freely.

Their 16-page pastoral statement was issued after chief opposition leader Joshua Nkomo was forced by protesting ZANU-PF supporters to cancel two planned election trips last month.

The demonstrators accused Mr. Nkomo, head of Zimbabwe African people's union (ZAPU) Party, of being behind rebels blamed by the authorities for the murders of more than 200 civilians, including several ZANU-PF officials, since 1982.

A rally due to be addressed by Bishop Muzorewa early this month was also cancelled after demonstrations by ZANU-PF supporters.

The bishop's statement, to be read in churches every Sunday until the poll, urges the government to start a new peace initiative, "including communication and dialogue" with the rebels mainly active in southwestern Matabeleland province, home for the minority Ndebele tribe and Mr. Nkomo's political power base.

The clerics called on the government to offer a "hand of friendship" and asked the rebels: "Are your grievances really worth the terrible chain of reaction of violence you have triggered off and the blood that has been spilt?"

The government has yet to react to the statement, which diplomatic sources said might be interpreted as proof of interference by the church in state affairs.

One Western diplomat commented: "The bishops have clearly been bold, but for how much longer can they do this?"

Last year, the same Catholic bishops angered the government by alleging that an army sweep of Matabeleland against rebels had turned into a murderous reign against civilians.

Mr. Mugabe, a practising Catholic, sharply rebuked them saying they supported insurgents and told them to keep out of politics.

"The (Roman Catholic) church has now decided to counter successful government activities because they are directed against institutions of Nkomo which have been sustaining dissidents," the prime minister said.

For the Catholic Church, clashes with governments are not new. Before independence in 1980, it engaged in a running war of words with rebel Prime Minister Ian Smith over his white government which the church said oppressed the black majority.

Several leaders of the Catholic Church were forced to leave Rhodesia, as Zimbabwe then was, after being accused by the government of supporting black guerrillas.

A Catholic bishop told Reuters this week: "We have no regrets about what we have done, especially on those issues that touch on morality and human rights."

"We feel the church must speak out against all injustice and be the voice for those who at times become voiceless."

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Channel 6 weekly review

Crime and punishment — a question of morals

By John Boteler

OH DEAR, oh dear, oh dear. Is this what it all boils down to? "In this city you can get a lot more done by going to your local hoodlum than by going to your local politician". Thus spake a present-day law enforcement officer in Chicago. The story of "Crime Inc." is, of course, a story about the great disorders caused by money. This was episode two, "The Making of the Mob", and it offered the familiar contention that corporate vice in America can be squarely blamed on the temperance movement. "Prohibition taught Americans disrespect for the law". Hogwash. 1920's America was barely a generation after the "romantic" exploits of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Billy The Kid, and others of that stamp; it was also but a short breath away from the folk-heroes of the depression, such as Bonnie and Clyde, and John Dillinger. Even today the insistence on the individual's right to carry a gun in America is responsible for a body-count that would make your hair curl. What "Making of the Mob" showed us was not only the open contempt with which prohibition was flouted by the American masses — the ambivalent, jokey attitude of the news commentators, for example — but the deep-rooted, all pervading respect, indeed worship, that America would seem to have for money.

We met a lawyer who used to hang out with Capone and is working today in what looks like a very respectable practice. He explained the violence of the mob-wars as "competitive murders between themselves" in a tone which sought to excuse, or even condone, much as one might try to explain away questionable "business" methods. Not for nothing did Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) informer Gerry Drennon compare the mobs to General Motors. Similarly, in the soap-kitchen which Capone set up for the starving victims of the depression, we saw not only an admitted eye for the main chance but that recognition of suffering which helped create his image as hero in the public eye. "He never robbed anyone on the street,

and he never sold anyone something that wasn't the real McCoy". Hmmm, well, that's as may be. But Capone did help sell the credo that money is all that matters, and it is instructive that he was gaol not for murder, extortion, bootlegging, or any of the other numerous rackets he was involved in, but for tax-evasion. The news-commentator was only half-joking when he warned, "Let that be a lesson to you, always pay your Income Tax". Yes indeed: beat up on your neighbours as much as you like, but don't you dare short-change "Uncle Sam".

What last week's programme also demonstrated was how corruption depends for survival on its ability to spread: the corrupt are only safe when everyone else is tainted too. John F. Kennedy, it was revealed, might never have clinched the presidency without the vote-stealing efforts of the Chicago gangster which secured him Illinois. Similarly, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) hired mob goons to assassinate Dr. Castro. "There are no white-hats, no black-hats. They all conduct themselves the exact same. They're all in bed together". The speaker was Judith Exner, and she should know: She was the mistress of both Kennedy and Sam Giancana.

In the meantime, for sheer vulgar appeal, it is hard to see how "Crime Inc." could realistically be improved on. The material is simply too strong to be hotthered by sensationalism or pushy graphics; and it all still lives in living memory. An interview with the photographer who caught the aftermath of the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre in 1929. An old cop called Abner Bender, who explained how hard it was to avoid taking graft under the Chicago system. Stills of young gangsters, grinning like opera stars. And the most disturbing sight of all, the evil elderly, white-haired, stilling, "doddering" with six decades of murder in their mouths and eyes. There will be complaints that this series tells us nothing about the criminal mind; but the criminal hasn't got a mind, only an appetite, an appetite for money.

There may be hope yet though. This week's episode is "Racket Busters". The problems of law-enforcement in the face of the consolidated strength of organised crime are immense. The first real breakthrough came in 1935 with the appointment of a brilliant young lawyer, Thomas Dewey, as special prosecutor in New York. He succeeded in prosecuting Mafia boss Lucky Luciano for prostitution; Luciano was found guilty and jailed for thirty years. Since then, major American cities have evolved successful strike forces — New York and Cleveland in particular, but the situation is still desperate.

Maybe, though, the mobs will always win out, and there was a suggestion of this in "Travelling Man". It was rather a disappointing ending. Our hero lived, but he had not found his son, though, as was pointed out, his son could always find him. Does the boy believe his father to be guilty, or is he just a victim of the current disease of "death of the spirit", homeless and wandering as much as his father? There was also a suggestion that, when given photographic evidence of Pender's accomplice in the frame-up, Lomax failed to recognize him. Perhaps there will be a second series to answer these questions. Or perhaps it was just proof that this really is how the world ends, not with bang, but a whimper. Or, as in "Making of the Mob", with two bodies rotting in the boot of a car.

There are several programme changes at the moment on Channel 6. Last week saw the end, (temporary, I hope) of "Remington Steele". What a pity that it should come just as cuddly Mildred finally got a chance on centre stage. It is replaced in the Sunday 10.15 slot by "Scarecrow & Mrs. King". (At least, I hope it is. Last week's switching of the times of "Remington Steele" and "Crime Inc." wasn't at all inductive to sweet dreams!) "Ex-Chadler's angel" Kate Jackson plays a cute divorcee. (I hope "cute" doesn't mean vacant.) She is handed a package at a railway station and subsequently becomes involved in a spy versus spy situation with a handsome — but of course! — operative from a secret U.S.

agency. I will reserve judgment.

Last week also saw the final episode of "Mansfield Park", in which the wimp finally caught the mouse. A bit harsh, perhaps, but Cousin Edmund was a pretty feeble individual, while Fanny Price was never likely to set the Thames on fire. But then villains, especially when sketched by the acid pen of Jane Austen, are attractive anyway. The new series to entertain us on Mondays at 9.10 is "Sorrell and Son", a six-part adaptation of Warwick Deeping's best-selling novel which was an immediate international success when it first appeared in 1925. It has all the ingredients of the classic family saga, spanning two decades of tragedy and joy as it tells the story of an officer and gentleman, Captain Sorrell, who returns home after the World War I to face unemployment, poverty and his wife's desertion. His whole world now revolves around his son Kit, and he is determined to see him educated as a gentleman. Sorrell is forced to accept menial jobs in order to realise this ambition, and he eventually gets a post as a porter in a hotel, where his life is made miserable by the vicious and dishonest head-porter.

This week also witnesses the end of one comedy series and the start of another. Will "Don't Wait Up" see Tom's parents kiss and make up, or will they go through with their divorce? I suspect the former, but I'm frequently wrong! Wednesday at the same time gives us episode one of "Up the Elephant and Round the Castle". The English stand-up comic Jim Davidson makes his first excursion into situation comedy in this six-week series where he stars as Jim London, who inherits his aunt's "castle", situated in a row of Victorian workmen's cottages near the Elephant and Castle in South London. Safely inside his new acquisition, Jim plans to entertain the dolly-birds of his choice, only to discover to his horror that owning a "castle" doesn't mean privacy and he is under constant siege from the milkman, postman, neighbours and friends alike. From what I've seen of Jim Davidson, I suspect that this will prove to be a coarser ver-



Sorrell and Son (Episode 1): John Shrapnel and Richard Pasco — Monday 9.10

sion of another recent Channel 6 cockney comedy series, Just Good Friends, but time will tell. Otherwise with the 8.30 comedy programme it's "as you were". In "Open All Hours", (Friday), Arkwright decides that his nephew needs toughening up, so Granville is subjected to a crash course in sales technique. But he gains the sympathy of the lady customers, who gang up on Arkwright for bullying. In "Three's Company", (Thursday), this week Jack helps an old lady, but wishes he hadn't when she tries to take over his life. Janet and Cindy try to protect him, his latest date is ruined, and it's left to Larry to come to the rescue armed with a baseball bat! I'm beginning to wish that someone would resort to similar desperate measures in "Star of the Family", (Tuesday), which is beginning to get a bit sickly. This week Dougie feels that he's falling for one of his teachers and Buddy brings home a pretty divorcee from a single's bar, — and they turn out to be the same woman. Oooh, Daddy — how could you! At least Suzanne Pleshette has more

"oomph" in "Maggie Briggs", (Monday).

The "soaps" are all still there: "The Yellow Rose", "Hotel", and "The Onedin Line", are on parade at 10.15 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday respectively, while "Tenko", looms ominously at 9.10 on Tuesday. Is Rose dead? Who betrayed her? Ah-ha, I know the answers to both, but I'm not going to tell! (Though brown envelopes stuffed with 20 JD notes may convince me). Hopefully I will manage to watch the first episode of "Lyttton's Diary", (Thursday, 9.10), and thus be able to comment on it next week, but what I can tell you is that this week top banker Guy Phillips reads in Neville's Column of his daughter's relationship with trendy record producer Jake Cutter and flies into a rage. He arranges to meet Lyttton over lunch and denounces the affair, saying his daughter is definitely not a friend of Cutter's — someone he views with distaste. And he accuses Lyttton of publishing lies. As for tonight, (thought I'd never get there), there

is "Tales of the Unexpected" at 8.30, in which George Peppard stars in "The Dirty Detail". When by chance unemployed Vietnam War veteran Fred Pearson meets up with his former Marine Corps Sergeant Guedo, (Peppard), it brings back unhappy memories of Guedo's brutal command. He determines to seek a just revenge on the bully who made his life so miserable, and succeeds in luring him back to his apartment pretending that he owes him money. Instead he plans to settle an old score. The feature film at 10.15 is "Escape to Athens", with Reger Moore, David Niven, Elliott Gould, and Stephanie Powers. According to the promotion, this all-star cast can't help this World War II adventure film decide whether it's comedy or drama, and the amazing number of explosions do not bring it to life. The Thursday film at 10.15 promises to be more fun though. William Conrad stars in "The Return of Frank Cannon", derived from the series about the fat gourmet private eye who has more than a passing resemblance to Rex

Stout's detective Nero Wolfe. When CIA agent Tom is murdered, his daughter turns to Cannon for help in discovering the killer. He should prove an interesting contrast to "Hardcastle and McCormick", (Tuesday 10.15), and "Murder She Wrote", (Friday, 9.10). But for any fans of mayhem and gore who are still dissatisfied, I can only recommend wholeheartedly the programme at 9.10 on Wednesday — a documentary on the master himself, Alfred Hitchcock.

Finally, I must mention "Trauma Centre", on Channel 3 at 6.15 on Tuesday. Last week they did even better. Three lives saved, though only one marriage. Chief surgeon "Cutter" lived up to his nickname by verbally slicing up some kid who, understandably enough, was finding it a bit hard to come to terms with the fact that his brother was going to be almost a vegetable for the foreseeable future, while Lou Ferrigno, who plays "Six", reverted to his previous incarnation as the Hulk, wrestled with a tiger, and won!

American farmers face spring crisis

By Michael Conlon
Reuters

CHICAGO — Debt-ridden American farmers already owe more money than Brazil and Mexico put together, and they are heading deeper into crisis as they seek to borrow even more to finance this year's planting.

In the view of one expert, as many as 15 per cent of farmers will be turned down when they ask for loans to prepare for this summer's seeding of wheat, corn, soybeans and other crops.

The alternative is bankruptcy, or a plea to their suppliers for some kind of refinancing.

The prospect has spread a winter gloom over the Midwest, which has some of the richest farming land in the world.

"Agriculture is the largest industry in this country and we are broke," says Missouri farmer Carlos Welty, who helped organise a recent march on the Chicago commodities exchanges, one of a spate of protests against the farmers' plight.

Their problems have sprung

chiefly from a combination of high interest rates and depressed crop prices that has burst a speculative bubble in which farmers borrowed heavily to buy land in the belief that prices and production could only go up.

Total U.S. farm debts are estimated at \$210 billion, while Brazil owes more than 100 billion, and Mexico 93 billion.

"We're coming up to an extremely critical time. We have not in modern history faced this kind of situation," Neil Harl, a professor of economics at Iowa State University, told Reuters.

Prof. Harl estimates that eight to 15 per cent of U.S. farmers — about 10,000 in Iowa alone — will be denied spring planting loans this year. Banks are already overextended, having lent more than they can now recover since the land held as collateral has fallen in value.

An acre of prime Iowa farmland which sold for \$2,147 in 1981 sells today for \$1,357, he said — when a buyer can be found. Farm bankruptcies further depress prices

already lowered by deflation.

The federal deposit insurance corporation, an agency that provides insurance coverage for bank deposits, says more than 230 of the nation's 4,300 agricultural banks — those that do a sizeable business loaning to farmers — are in trouble.

Farmers are fighting back by banding together.

In St. Paul, Minnesota, 12,000 farmers marched arm-in-arm with rural businessmen on the state capital recently demanding relief from foreclosures. Minnesota State Governor Rudy Perpich spoke of a new depression in the farm belt.

In Iowa and several other Midwestern states, the Teamsters Union, the largest single union in the country, is actively recruiting farmers to join it in a new lobbying force.

On one Iowa farm, more than 100 protesting farmers and members of the United Auto Workers' Union swarmed over a debt-ridden auction of farm equipment in snow and freezing tem-

peratures, forcing its postponement.

In Chicago, more than three dozen farm demonstrators were arrested when they marched on the world's largest commodities exchanges demanding a revision in trading rules they believe have depressed prices unfairly.

Republican Governor Terry Branstad of Iowa went to Washington recently to demand that Mr. Reagan fulfil an election campaign promise to provide government-backed loans to farmers.

Senator Tom Harkin, a Democrat from Iowa, foresees "the spectre of widespread violence throughout the Midwest" because of farm problems.

Some farmers say up to 10 per cent of family farmers have had to sell out in the last year alone to pay their debts.

Tom Curi, an Illinois farmer who took part in the protest at the Chicago exchanges, says farmers' income in the last few years has not been enough even to service interest on their debts.

Boats and nets versus pumps and latrines

By Sumi Krishna Chauhan

JALLIAPARA, Bangladesh — This small fishing village on the bank of the Naf River in the far southeast corner of Bangladesh is at the heart of one of the most important studies on the impact of improved water and sanitation on health.

The study, being conducted by the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), has shown that the introduction of tubewells with handpumps, simple latrines and a certain amount of health education, at great cost and effort, has not produced a measurable health benefit.

The villagers of Jalliapara are happy with their new wells and latrines. They are pleased to be receiving so much attention. Some social attitudes have changed; for instance, many women no longer remain veiled in front of the male project staff.

But when asked what they themselves would have bought with outside funds, if they had had the choice, the villagers always reply: "Fishing boats and nets".

Jalliapara was established on an island in medieval times by Arab settlers. It is now connected to the Teknaf peninsula by an embankment and a rough jeep track. The peninsula, barely 6.5 kilometres across, is split down the middle by a range of forested hills. Teknaf village, the biggest in the area, has a telephone line to the outside world. But the hilltop telephone exchange is sometimes surrounded by wild elephants, and the operators cannot enter.

Life here is a gamble, physically and economically. Cyclone warnings are frequent, but the people do not take them seriously. Where could they go? Fishing is Jalliapara's major occupation; on some nights big catches can be had both in the Naf River and in the Bay of Bengal; on other nights fis-

hing boats return empty.

Other Teknaf villages grow rice in the monsoon — a monsoon which often fails. Some of the wealthier farmers grow betel as a cash crop. But betel is even more sensitive than rice to weather conditions, and crops can fail suddenly and disastrously.

There is a flourishing — largely illegal — trade with Burma, across the Naf. Burmese rice, bamboo and cloth are exchanged for aluminium, batteries and some manufactured goods. But there has been almost no economic development in the area.

The villagers' needs — as they see them — are food and shelter — or a cash income to buy food and shelter.

Jalliapara villagers live in bamboo houses with mud floors and sloping, thatched roofs. There is almost no ventilation; the doorways are low, and the houses are dark even in the daytime. Only the better-off families have wooden

floors and tin roofs.

Households of six to seven members commonly include a married sister or daughter and her children, abandoned by the husband who has had to go away to find work in another area and has married again.

Improved water and sanitation facilities are not high on the villagers' list of priorities.

Traditionally, people collected water from shallow holes in the ground, made by scooping out the earth. The water table is high, and the holes are rarely more than a few feet deep. Some villages also have uncovered wells.

Jalliapara has a traditional Muslim school. The teacher who runs it knows the health education rules by rote. But he does not think the village can maintain the handpumps by themselves if the ICDDR,B project stops. "Where will we get spare parts?" he asks. — Earthscan feature.

The metro: Paris largest sales area

By Jean Baumier

THE GOOD old "metro", created at the beginning of the century and which is, in a way, a city beneath the city, has since the beginning of the 70s, been the largest sales area in the French capital. At least that is what a report in the French weekly "Le Point" asserts.

With its three hundred and fifty underground stations and its fifty kilometres of corridors, the Metropolitan of the Regie Autonome des Transports Parisiens (RATP) alone has five hundred and fifty commercial establishments, that is to say more than the Forum des Halles shopping centre and more than the "Quatre Temps"

shopping mall in the futuristic city of La Defense, which is dominated by a forest of glass and steel skyscrapers.

Originally the only businesses allowed in the metro were newsagents. In the early 1970s, when the Regional Express Railway (RER) was opened at la Defense, those in large of the RATP, realised with despair that it was badly arranged. A vast area of almost five thousand square metres had been built and it had no use whatsoever.

That was when the idea of setting up a mini shopping centre in it saw the light of day. The latter included a chemist's, a "pub", a food store and art gallery and also a discotheque. The fifty businesses

in the PER at la Defense had a considerable turnover. It was a success.

The RATP then gave the Promo-Metro company, which was already in charge of the advertising spaces, the task of exploiting the commercial resources available, which had until then been unused.

The idea was to address the 3.5 million travellers daily on the network who represent many potential customers.

In the big interchange stations such as Franklin Roosevelt, Palais-Royal, Opera, Etoile, Charles de Gaulle, Montparnasse, Chatelet, etc., a whole host of little shops appeared, selling flowers, beauty products, leather

goods, clothes etc...

Also, illicit salesmen who had previously set up stalls in the metro corridors, were "legalised" on paying a fee. Thus seventy display stalls are let for a rent from 1,500 to 4,500 francs a month.

Finally, salesmen with collapsible stalls are allowed to set up shop on the platforms of stations.

The income which the RATP derives from this exploitation of its resources is not negligible. It amounts to around thirty million francs a year. Something which makes up for a considerable part of its deficit which normally comes from public finances — Radio France International.



Lloyd, Navratilova in final

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (R) — Chris Evert Lloyd won the chance to regain the lead in her long-running rivalry with Martina Navratilova when she followed the top seed into the women's final of the International Players' Tennis Championships Thursday night.

Lloyd, seeded second, rallied from 4-1 down in the first set to beat the young West German Steffi Graf 6-4, 6-3. Earlier Navratilova beat Canadian teenager Carling Bassett, seeded 10th, 6-3, 6-3 in the first semifinal.

Lloyd beat Navratilova in their previous meeting three weeks ago to level their lifetime record at 31 wins each. A first prize of \$112,500 will be at stake when they meet Saturday.

"I'm not afraid to play her anymore," Lloyd said. "She is number one and I won't take that away from her. But I dreaded playing her during the streak when she

kept beating me. She is probably more eager as I was in the last match."

After her nervous start against Graf, Lloyd pulled back to 4-4 but was kept under pressure by the West German who saved three set points before surrendering the first set.

"I thought that if I played very well I might have a chance," Graf said. "I want to play her again. I will work my backhand more and go to the net more if I do and maybe I'll have a better chance."

"I have played better against Bassett," said Navratilova. "It's

my third straight tournament where I've played her. I didn't know whether to go in or stay back against her serve."

In the second set, Bassett led 3-0 but knew the pressure was still on. "I could feel she was pumping up her game. That's what she does. When you get a lead on her you have to raise the level of your own game to hold it. You have to work for points against her."

Navratilova, who has won 101 tournaments in her career and has been ranked number one in women's tennis since January 1982, said: "I'm not playing as well as I did two years ago."

"But I've eased up. I couldn't keep up the work, like running, playing basketball, swimming, doing something every day. I'm not in great shape like I used to be, but I'm still faster than anybody out there."

Weather set to cool British cup fever

LONDON (R) — The freezing weather conditions which have returned to Britain in the last week are set to plunge most of Saturday's English Football Association (F.A.) Cup action into cold storage.

Of the seven fifth-round matches scheduled to take place Saturday, three are almost certain non-starters and another two are doubtful.

Only cup holders Everton's home tie with minor-league side Telford and League Champions Liverpool's visit to third-division giant-killers York City are sure to go ahead.

And Manchester United's tie at second division Blackburn Rovers will definitely be played Friday night.

Ipswich, scheduled to play host to Sheffield Wednesday in one of two all-first division ties, had their

League Cup semifinal clash with Norwich postponed on Wednesday and their Portman Road home is unlikely to have improved sufficiently by Saturday.

But Luton and Wimbledon remain optimistic they can stage their home ties.

The pitch at Luton's Kenilworth Road home was still covered by snow Friday but Plear said the terraces had been cleared. "I don't think there are too many problems about getting the game played," he added.

Meanwhile Wimbledon are investigating the possibility of hiring a cover for their pitch to combat the frost and keep alive their clash with fellow-Londoners West Ham.

Wimbledon manager Dave Bassett was confident the match could be played.

Belgium's Liboton aims for 4th title

MUNICH, West Germany (R) — Belgium's Roland Liboton aims to battle his way through the snow and ice to win his fourth consecutive professional title at this weekend's Cyclo-Cross World Championships.

Liboton, 27, resumes his close rivalry with Dutchman Hennie Stammsnijder, the last man to beat him to a world title, at Munich's snow-covered Olympia Park Circuit.

Stammsnijder took the title in 1981 but the Belgian, who won the amateur world title in 1978 and his first professional World Championship in 1980, has dominated the event ever since and has won in each of the last three years.

If he wins his sixth gold medal at Munich he will move to second place in the all-time World Championships rankings behind compatriot Eric de Vlaeminck, who won seven world titles.

Liboton started the season slowly after suffering from an elbow injury caused when he fell off a horse. But his form has improved and he took the super prestige title for the first time last month with three wins in the eight-event series. Stammsnijder also won three but finished nine points behind.

The most serious competition for the two cyclo-cross aces is likely to come from another Belgian, Paul de Brauwier, and a second Dutchman, Reinier Groenendaal.

Paris pledges support for twin French Olympic bid

PARIS (R) — Paris, bidding for the 1992 Summer Olympics, Thursday pledged support for a twin French challenge for the Summer and Winter Games.

Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac pledged solidarity with the region of South-Eastern France which wants to stage the 1992 Winter Games and said: "We support without reserve the candidature of the Savoy. We are in accord with this double candidature."

Chirac was speaking after presenting his team to mount the Paris challenge for the Summer Games against the competition of Amsterdam, Barcelona, Belgrade, Brisbane and New Delhi.

The Paris line-up includes Guy Drut, 110 metres hurdles gold medalist at the 1976 Montreal Olympics who is now one of the

mayor's deputies in charge of sport and youth affairs, and former world mile record-holder Michel Jazy.

Sports Minister Alain Calmat and National Olympic Committee President Nelson Pailhou attended the presentation and promised support for the Paris bid.

Paris declared its candidature only last November, shortly before the deadline, after protracted negotiations between the government and the city authorities over financial guarantees.

The state has agreed to cover half of any deficit which ran to a maximum four billion francs (\$400 million), with the city of Paris and the region of the Ile de France, which encompasses the capital, dividing the other half.

Bramble favoured to beat Mancini

RENO, Nevada (R) — The war of words has begun in earnest as World Boxing Association (WBA) lightweight champion Livestone Bramble and fellow-American Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini wind up their preparations for Saturday's title fight.

Mancini, the once and — as he claims — future champion, says he was dethroned because over-training made him flabby and lethargic.

Bramble, the man who took his crown, says it does not matter what Mancini did or did not do. He is going to retain the WBA 135-pound title by using the full range of his attack to devastating effect.

Bookmakers in Reno, one of the great U.S. gambling centres, have made their choice — Bramble is 2-1 odds on favourite to beat Mancini, ranked number three by the WBA.

Their first clash in Buffalo last June produced a major upset when the then little-known Bramble stopped Mancini in the 14th round, after being behind on points.

"It was a fluke," said Mancini. "I was lethargic. I had no snap in my punches. I'd depleted myself physically and couldn't do anything."

Bramble does not think it will make any difference what condition Mancini is in on Saturday. "I didn't do everything I can," said the champion. "I never used jabs. I never used combinations. I'll use those things this time."

Forty-eight games had been played in the championship match, with the first player to win six games due to take the title.

Karpov, 33, was said by Soviet chess sources to have been under growing psychological strain as his youthful challenger clawed his way back from a seemingly unsalvageable 5-0 deficit, taking the score to 5-3.

Following Friday's announcement Karpov, to Kasparov's visible amazement, made an unexpected appearance at the news conference in Moscow's suburban Hotel Sport and said he was ready to continue the match, already the longest in championship history.

Kasparov, who Soviet chess sources said, was believed to be much more eager than Karpov to

Tyrrell faces fresh legal challenge

PARIS (R) — The International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) is planning further legal moves against the British Tyrrell Formula One racing team. FISA Secretary-General Yvon Leon said Friday.

Two days ago a Paris appeal court upheld a ban imposed by FISA on Tyrrell last year for alleged violation of fuel regulations in the Detroit Grand Prix in June.

Leon said Tyrrell had failed to respect commitments undertaken last year to abide by FISA rules and adhere to the federation's sporting code.

The aim of new legal moves, whose form had yet to be decided, would be to clarify the situation and settle the issue once and for all, he said.

Instead of abiding by the decision of the International Automobile Federation (FIA) appeal court, which confirmed the ban last August, Tyrrell had taken the issue to a civil court, Leon said. "If Tyrrell wants to take part in 1985, he must respect the rules. If not, he cannot stay with us," he said.

Wednesday's judgement against Tyrrell overturned another court's decision last December to lift the 1984 suspension.

World chess match abandoned

MOSCOW (R) — The marathon world chess title match was declared abandoned Friday with champion Anatoly Karpov insisting he was fit to play and challenger Garry Kasparov clearly displeased with the decision.

Kasparov, taken by surprise by the abandonment followed by Karpov's pronouncement that he could play, at one point stormed out of a hall where a news conference was being held.

He subsequently refused to appear on a rostrum with Karpov and International Chess Federation (FIDE) President Florencio Campomanes when a final announcement was made. Campomanes said the championship match would be restarted in September.

Kasparov later told reporters: "I am perfectly healthy and ready to play. Why play chess if the president can take these decisions at any moment?"

Campomanes, the world's top chess official, announced the decision to abandon the match at a news conference marked by uproar and altercation rarely seen in the Soviet capital.

Campomanes, who had flown to Moscow at the request of Karpov's doctors following reports that the champion was under severe psychological strain, said a rematch would be staged early in September with rules to be fixed by a FIDE congress in the Austrian city of Graz in August.

Kasparov, 21, eventually agreed, with clear reluctance, to restart the match from scratch in September but was clearly furious at the FIDE president's action, which came when he seemed on the verge of a spectacular comeback.

Forty-eight games had been played in the championship match, with the first player to win six games due to take the title.

Karpov, 33, was said by Soviet chess sources to have been under growing psychological strain as his youthful challenger clawed his way back from a seemingly unsalvageable 5-0 deficit, taking the score to 5-3.

Following Friday's announcement Karpov, to Kasparov's visible amazement, made an unexpected appearance at the news conference in Moscow's suburban Hotel Sport and said he was ready to continue the match, already the longest in championship history.

Kasparov, who Soviet chess sources said, was believed to be much more eager than Karpov to

play on, then took the rostrum and accused the FIDE president of staging an unnecessary spectacle, before storming from the hall.

Campomanes later told reporters: "The world champion accepts the decision of the president and the challenger abides by the decision of the president."

The FIDE chief had explained his decision by saying that both players had asked him to continue the match but he had made his decision for the good of world chess.

An angry Kasparov refused to join Campomanes and Karpov for a final announcement.

"I have said more than once that I want to play this match, am ready to continue the match and am absolutely healthy," Kasparov told reporters in the foyer of the Hotel Sport, the recent venue of the chess contest.

He appeared to question Karpov's stated willingness to play on, saying: "I don't know if he is talking sincerely about his desire to play but this reminds me of a well-rehearsed spectacle in which everybody knows his own role."

Before the final announcement, Karpov had told the news conference: "I think we can and ought to continue the match. I think that Mr. Kasparov will support this decision and there will be no problem."

Kasparov in turn took the rostrum and told the FIDE chief: "You knew my opinion very well on whether I wanted to continue. This was an unnecessary spectacle."

Campomanes then said he would welcome a meeting with both players alone and followed Karpov and Kasparov out of the

hall. He then returned to the news conference to make his final announcement that the match would be restarted.

Kasparov told reporters FIDE had shown "complete inability" to organise the world championship and officials had tried to make him agree to abandon the match "on all sorts of pretexts".

Announcing the decision to end the series, Campomanes said: "The match is terminated without a result being declared. The new match will start on September 1, 1985, with the score 0-0. Its winner will be declared world champion for 1985-86."

It was not immediately clear what result would be declared if the scores in the new match were level after 24 games.

Karpov won his chess title in April 1975 when the then reigning champion Bobby Fischer of the United States declined to play the Soviet grandmaster. He and Kasparov are members of the Soviet Communist Party and Karpov holds the Order of Lenin.

Although needing only one more victory to retain his title, Karpov had appeared in noticeably weaker form recently and Soviet chess sources said he had been affected by a long string of gruelling draws.

Kasparov's supporters had consistently said they foresaw the match developing into an endurance test between the two men, who are acknowledged as outstanding all other chess players.

Kasparov is physically much less robust than Kasparov, a rugged athlete who plays soccer.

Chess experts said the decision to abandon the match was without precedent in recent chess history.

Amman Little League

Basketball scores - games played Feb. 15

Juniors

Intercon. 12
Goodyear 26
Ericsson 10
Al Ahlia 16

Mids

Arab Wings 30
American Express 38
Cairo-Amman 11
Arab Wings 33

Seniors

Foxboro 43
Jordan Express 43
Marriott 43
Odds 'n Ends 62
Yanks 46

Peugeot 4

Grindlays 8
Volvo 9
Peugeot 16

Lego 10

Marriott 19
Chase Manhattan 8
Int. Traders 25

Holiday Inn 7

Asira 14
Yanks 42
Elba 35
Marines 44

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July 1985

Investors' fervour runs wild in Japan

TOKYO (R) — Share prices in Tokyo, the largest stock market after Wall Street, have soared in the last two weeks, going against earlier forecasts and traditional February tendencies, as investors' enthusiasm ran wild.

In the past two trading weeks, which included two extra holidays, the Nikkei Dow average gained 258.73 points to reach Friday's all-time high of 12,148.29 at the close.

"Setsubun (Feb. 3) is the traditional market peak, so February and March are usually inactive," Griesevan Grant and Co. analyst Mr. Peter Tasker told Reuters. "But this year, it's all excitement."

A frenzy of buying centred on shares companies engaged in biotechnology-related research. Announcements of new cancer research surfaced several days in a row, driving up shares such as Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical and Dainippon Pharmaceutical.

"It doesn't matter whether the story is true or not, what matters is it could be true," said Mr. Tasker.

General economic and political trends became secondary as the market mood fluctuated on such incentives, analysts said.

In some cases sharp advances by heavily-weighted shares drove the market average up, despite losses in other sectors, dealers said. Analysts credited a Feb. 8 jump of about 68 points to gains by three companies — Dainippon, Takeda Chemical Corp and Sankyo.

Food shares drew heavy buying Friday afternoon, triggered by a rumour that the police had arrested members of a gang which has been trying to extort money from candy makers since last year, dealers said. The police denied the rumour.

"If it turned out to be true, it would be fantastic, so no one wanted to lose out," said one dealer. "Anyway, everyone's always waiting for a juicy feast to spend their money on."

"The market has an intrinsic desire to believe in the best of all possible worlds," said Mr. Tasker.

In Hong Kong, corporate takeover rumours swept the market, sending the Hang Seng index surging 51.54 points to a 32-month high of 1,405.93. Trading volume ballooned to more than \$90 million, more than double Thursday's total.

Brokers said the rumours were spawned by Thursday's announcement of a \$240 million offer for Wheelock Marden, a major Hong Kong shipping and property firm, by Malaysian businessman, Mr. Khoo Teck Puat.

They said speculators flooded the market, expecting similar offers for other companies seen as likely takeover targets.

Iran cuts oil export revenue projections

TEHRAN (R) — Iran projected oil export revenue for the year starting on March 22 has been cut to 1,650 billion rials (\$17.6 billion) from 1,860 billion rials (\$19.8 billion), the newspaper Kayhan reported Thursday.

The Tehran paper said the Majlis (Parliament) plan and budget committee also reduced current budget expenditure for the year to 2,567 billion rials (\$27.3 billion) from 2,760 billion rials (\$29.4 billion).

A committee member, Mr. Gholam Hossein Naadi, said earlier this month that oil revenue in the current financial year could total 1,400 billion rials (\$15 billion) compared with an original target of 1,800 billion (\$19.3 billion).

Kayhan said government borrowing was reduced to 210 billion rials (\$2.2 billion) from 298 billion rials (\$3.2 billion).

The oil revenue cut coincides with weak world market prices and lower Iranian crude oil exports following Iraqi attacks on shipping using Iran's main Kharg Island oil terminal.

Last Sunday, a senior oil ministry official said Iran had reduced prices for its light and heavy crude — by \$1.05 and by 20 cents respectively, on an FOB basis from Kharg.

Informed Iranian oil sources estimated oil exports last month at about 900,000 barrels per day (b/d), compared with a normal volume of about 1.7 million.

Lebanese pound firms

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese pound firmed slightly against the dollar in quiet trading Friday as dealers waited to see whether Israel's imminent withdrawal from the Sidon area will be completed peacefully.

The pound closed at 13.95/14.05 to the dollar against Thursday's 14.10/20 close and Friday's 13.90/14.30 opening. One dealer said, the close seemed artificially high since most transactions had been in the 14.15/25 range.

Dealers agreed there were no new factors influencing what one described as "wait-and-see market." They said there was no sign the central bank sold dollars through commercial banks Friday, which some dealers said it had done earlier in the week.

"If there is no fighting after the Israeli withdrawal, maybe we'll see the dollar a bit lower," said one dealer. "If fighting breaks out, it could go much higher," Israel says its troops will leave the Sidon area of South Lebanon by Monday.

Advancement in U.S. depends on other peoples' money, Schmidt says

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — The United States' economic recovery and President Reagan's view of the future are largely founded on other peoples' money, according to former West German chancellor Mr. Helmut Schmidt.

In an article in the weekly newspaper Die Zeit Thursday, he said the credit-based U.S. upswing was a new "time-homb" to add to the still ticking problem of South American debt.

He urged leaders of the seven largest non-communist industrial countries who will hold an economic summit in Bonn in May to try to help Washington defuse it.

Mr. Schmidt said the steady rise of the dollar on world currency markets must be braked and a slow decline must begin, and this could be achieved only by cutting the U.S. budget deficits.

The former chancellor's comments were published only a day after Mr. Reagan told reporters in Washington that the dollar had reached record heights because

Schmidt said. The remaining 30 per cent of savings was "far too little for an economic recovery" and was the reason why vast amounts of capital had to be imported. This would hardly change in 1985.

By comparison, the West German public sector deficit corresponded to only about 30 to 40 per cent of private savings.

Mr. Schmidt said the question was how long could funds continue to flow from other economies to New York and Washington and what would happen when the capital flows went into reverse.

He said the U.S. budget deficit had acted as a locomotive for demand and generated jobs in Europe and Japan. But high interest rates resulting from U.S. policies were restraining investment in many countries and compounding the ills of debtor countries. Furthermore, dollar strength was increasingly distorting world trade patterns.

Meanwhile, President Reagan's explanation for the meteoric rise of the dollar was challenged in Copenhagen, Thursday by the head of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), who denied the European economies were weak.

OECD Secretary General Jean Claude Paye told a news conference that the U.S. dollar's rise against European currencies did not prove European economies were weak.

"I do not think Europe is weak. Europe is now in the middle of a process of adjustment which is very painful but at the same time very stimulating," he said.

Mr. Paye, a former French diplomat who took over as head of the Paris-based secretariat of the 24-nation bloc of Western industrialised countries last September, was speaking at the end of a two-day official visit to Denmark.

IMF suspends credits to Brazil

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF), deeply worried about Brazil's failure to carry out economic reforms, has decided to cancel a \$400 million loan to the country due next month, U.S. officials said Thursday.

The move has also abruptly ended talks between Brazil and its foreign creditor banks on stretching out repayments of some \$45 billion of the country's \$100 billion of foreign debt.

The U.S. officials said these developments could lead to a deepening of the debt crisis despite recent predictions that the worst was over.

"How quickly people were congratulating themselves that the crisis was past," one U.S. official commented.

The officials, who asked not to

be identified, said the entire \$1.5 billion the IMF was to pay Brazil in instalments this year — not just the \$400 million due next month — might now be at risk.

Two years ago the IMF led a financial rescue package for Brazil with a three-year, \$4.5 billion loan.

The IMF, which oversees global financial stability, has become increasingly worried about Brazil's inability to meet the economic targets it set as a condition for the financial rescue.

Brazil is the world's biggest foreign debtor and U.S. officials noted its problems are so large that they can affect the financial stability of the entire world.

Brazilian inflation ran at a roughly 300 per cent annual rate in January, far above a tentative IMF target of 120 per cent for 1985.

U.S. officials said the global lending agency was also deeply disturbed that Brazilian money supply and government spending were surpassing tentative targets.

Negotiators for the departing Brazilian military administration of President Joao Figueiredo were unable to convince the IMF to agree to a new economic programme for the final year of the accord which is due to start in March.

The officials said the IMF wanted the incoming administration of President-elect Tancredino Neves, which takes office on March 15, to take up negotiations with both the fund and Brazil's foreign creditor banks.

When Mr. Neves visited Washington recently "he was told by the U.S. government that his people should have the authority," one U.S. official said, pointing out that time was running out for the "caretaker government" of the outgoing administration.

Brazil's bank creditors announced Wednesday that they were adjourning talks with Brazil on stretching out repayment of \$45 billion of foreign debt falling due between 1985 and 1991.

The banks, headed by the largest American bank, Citibank, cited the obstacles Brazil was encountering in IMF negotiations as their reason for ending talks.

The move is a blow to Western strategy for dealing with the debt crisis. In recent months both government officials and economic analysts have suggested that the international debt problem was now under control.

Chrysler reports record profit in '84

DETROIT (R) — Chrysler Corporation said Thursday it earned record profits of nearly \$2.4 billion in 1984, only a few years after the company needed government help to stave off bankruptcy.

The announcement by the third-largest U.S. auto maker brought last year's earnings by the industry as a whole to \$9.8 billion, the highest in history and a staggering turnaround from earlier in the decade when the industry piled up billions of dollars in losses.

General Motors last week said it earned \$4.5 billion in 1984 and Ford Wednesday reported profits for the year of \$2.9 billion.

Mr. Iacocca said Chrysler began paying corporate taxes again late in 1984 for the first time since 1978 and had now erased the slightly more than \$3.2 billion in losses piled up since he became chief executive in 1979.

He attributed the turnaround to higher vehicle sales, cost-cutting and a doubling in productivity.

But the outspoken Chrysler chief warned that his company remained vulnerable to competition from Japan if Washington allowed current restraints on imports of Japanese cars to expire as

scheduled on March 31.

He said Chrysler would start moving vehicle production outside North America if the voluntary restraint agreement between Washington and Tokyo limiting imports was not extended.

Mr. Iacocca said Chrysler was prepared to spend \$10.5 billion on new plants and products over the next five years but would wait to see what happened on the import curbs before deciding whether to invest the money in North America.

OECD warns Oslo against relying on oil income

PARIS (R) — Citing weakness in Norway's industrial sector, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Thursday warned the government against relying on its North Sea oil revenues for continued economic growth.

The warning on the need to make essential adjustments to

changing world conditions was issued in the annual OECD report on the Norwegian economy, despite what it called the country's good balance of payments record and healthy public finances.

"Industrial production has been virtually stagnant for a decade, and a higher proportion of industrial employment has been engaged in 'low growth' branches," it said.

Norway's economic growth is likely to slow to 1.5 per cent in 1985 from 3.8 per cent last year, due to a temporary fall in oil and gas exports, the report said. But if oil and shipping were excluded it should repeat last year's 2.75 per cent rise.

The balance of payments current account showed a record \$2.8 billion surplus last year due in part to higher oil and gas output and exports, it said.

That will slip in 1985 to about \$2.3 billion on the reduced oil and gas exports, an expected slowdown in manufacturing exports and higher imports.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed mixed after quiet session with the FTSE 100 index down 8.5 at 1,281.3.

Government bonds gained up to one point on sterling's firmness and easier domestic money rates, dealers said. Early activity prompted the government broker to supply about £200 million of the £800 million 11 per cent exchequer part paid stock 1990 at 20 1/4.

Equities drifted lower after an attempted mid-morning rally with ICI down 9p at 852, Hanson Trust 6p easier at 209 and BTR 10p lower at 654.

Gold shares were firm and North Americans mixed.

Banks showed net falls ranging to 22p including Lloyds at 567. The sector was depressed about worries over possible conflict between Brazil and the IMF. An adverse brokers circular on U.K. bank earnings also contributed to the decline, dealers said.

Oils were mixed with Lasso 5p higher at 378 and B.P. easier 5p to 578 while insurances were lower. Guardian Royal was down 4p at 656 and among brokers Sedgwick group moved to 367 from 379.

Jaguar reacted to recent strength easing 5p to 345 and among mining financials Cons Gold met further demand rising 10p to 521. Its results are due early next month.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| One sterling | 1.1030/40 | U.S. dollars |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.3385/88 | Canadian dollars |
| | 3.2635/50 | West German marks |
| | 3.6955/70 | Dutch guilders |
| | 2.7735/55 | Swiss francs |
| | 65.60/65 | Belgian francs |
| | 9.9850/9950 | French francs |
| | 2019.02/1.0 | Italian lire |
| | 256.90/7.00 | Japanese yen |
| | 9.2550/2700 | Swedish crowns |
| | 9.3775/3925 | Norwegian crowns |
| | 11.7000/7150 | Danish crowns |
| One ounce of gold | 304.60/305.10 | U.S. dollars |

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, FEB. 16, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A fine time to accept an opportunity where matters that have to do with possessions are concerned and to build up a new security for yourself by a very practical and down-to-earth attitude.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Consult with experts who can assist you with future activities that are important to you, and can analyze them well.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You can conquer that stubborn streak with an associate today by being more compromising in attitude.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Listen to what an expert has to suggest so that you can get long-time problematical affairs at work nicely solved.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Join with a partner at some amusement activity and you can at long last come to a real understanding.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) If you are more willing to share work around the house, you can reach a fine understanding with one who dwells with you.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get in touch with persons you like and invite them out for a good time at whatever will be mutually pleasurable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study monetary status of kin, and then do whatever will improve it. If repairs are needed to property, make plans to get it done.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You may feel stalemated in career work, but if you have talks with partners, all can be resolved nicely.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Forget that private worry and get busy at important matters that can bring in a greater income, then your worries are over.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't let that friend force you into doing what he or she likes, but be tactful. It may be a little hard to gain personal goals now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Have a discussion with one who is prominent and demanding and then the attitude changes and you get favors coming to you.

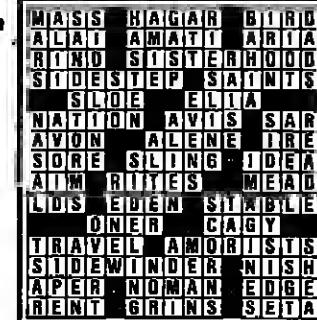
PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Listening to what an expert from out of town has to suggest will help you to gain your personal or business aims more easily.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... be or she will be very practical at whatever may come up and take time in deciding how to proceed. A fine organizer in this chart who will never want to act hastily, so do not try to change your progeny. Teach to listen to the views of others through which much can be learned.

THE Daily Crossword by Victor Jambor, Jr.



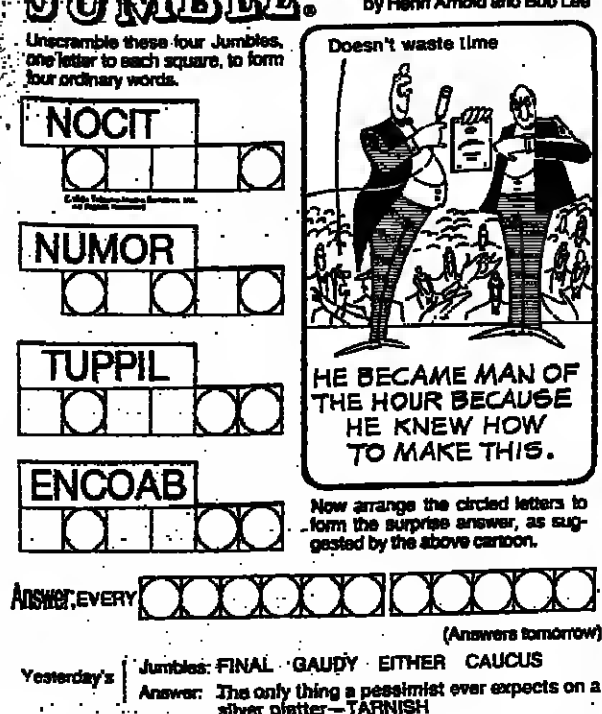
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Amiel and Bob Lee



Weinberger not pushing for early Star Wars deployment

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger wants research into all phases of the Star Wars defence conducted simultaneously in hopes of deploying the entire system at once, his spokesman has said.

Michael Burch said Mr. Weinberger, on a visit to Western Europe last week, did not discuss deploying the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), as Star Wars is formally named, but told allied leaders it was still only a research project.

Star Wars envisions using lasers or other technology to destroy enemy missiles on launch, in flight or heading into a target, with deployment at least a decade away.

Mr. Weinberger doesn't think it responsible to discuss early deployment when the project is still so far off, Mr. Burch said.

Once the research moves

ahead, he added, then decisions can be made. "But he (Weinberger) is certainly not pushing for early deployment."

Mr. Burch said some people say a point defence of ground targets could be an initial deployment, but "the secretary doesn't agree with that. We don't know which of the three layers might come in first."

The Washington Post said Thursday the White House was resisting pressure to put some limited Star Wars technology into use as soon as feasible, possibly for a limited point defence.

The newspaper quoted U.S. officials visiting London as saying the

pressure was coming from "sectors of the administration and the military."

The officials, who were not identified, said the main role for such technology would be in a land-based defence of some existing U.S. Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missile bases or of future MX missile silos.

The officials also noted proposals to defend command centres and submarine ports and a possible "mini-defence" in Western Europe against shorter-range Soviet tactical missiles that threaten allied ports and airfields.

U.S. officials in Washington had no immediate comment on the report.

One of the officials in London was quoted by the post as citing progress faster than expected in development of some components of President Reagan's proposed space-based anti-missile defence.

The official cited motors for ground-based interceptor missiles, super-computers meant to calculate instantly which incoming missile warheads are real and which are decoys, and long-wave, infra-red detection and sorting schemes.

The paper said progress was also being made on possible interception of enemy missiles on the fringes of space.

A number of high-ranking U.S. officials have visited Western Europe recently, including Mr. Weinberger and the director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, Kenneth Adelman.

In London, a spokesman said the Ministry of Defence had no knowledge whatsoever of the reported proposals and added that there had been "no official contact on this issue at all" between Britain and the United States.



His Majesty King Hussein during his visit to Algeria

Vietnamese capture key Khmer base

ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand (R) — Vietnamese troops captured the Khmer Rouge showcase headquarters of Phum Thmai near Kampuchea's border with Thailand Friday, a top Thai military officer said.

With the fall of Phum Thmai, the Vietnamese have wiped out virtually all guerrilla bases along the Thai-Kampuchean border. Their main problem will be to hold them. Thai officers said.

Thai Maj. Gen. Salya Sripen said Vietnamese forces entered Phum Thmai and set fires which could be seen from the Thai side of the border.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk visited the base only last week to receive credentials of foreign envoys accredited to his U.N.-recognised Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK).

Thai officers said earlier the base was left undefended by the guerrillas after the Phnom Penh mountain stronghold which guarded its entrance had been overrun by Hanoi's forces.

Western diplomats said the Vietnamese now controlled all strategic heights in the 400 square

kilometres mountainous region known collectively as Phnom Malai, a long-time sanctuary of the Peking-backed Khmer Rouge.

But Thai officers said the 10,000-strong Khmer Rouge force in the region was still intact though it had broken up into small units. They said the guerrillas had given up defending fixed positions.

Thai Supreme Commander Gen. Arthit Kamlang-Ek told reporters the Khmer Rouge were still active in the Phnom Malai complex and the loss of territory did not mean defeat in guerrilla terms.

Prince Sihanouk, talking to reporters before addressing a seminar in the seaside resort of Pattaya, expressed fear that the military setbacks could affect the credibility of his coalition at the United Nations.

He said some countries might abstain in the annual vote on the credentials of the coalition which the United Nations recognises as the legitimate government of Kampuchea in preference to the Hanoi-installed Phnom Penh administration.

Meanwhile Western diplomats said Friday China is under increasing pressure to help to shield its Kampuchean and Thai allies from Vietnamese attacks but a major fight along the Sino-Vietnamese border is unlikely.

China cannot mount the size of attack needed to divert Hanoi from its operations along the Thai-Kampuchean border, they said.

The diplomats, who were monitoring the tense situation closely, also said that Hanoi's main supporters in Moscow had warned it against major violations of Thai territory.

This should stop a full-scale war, although reported localised fighting could get worse, they said.

But South East Asian diplomats said China may have to do more to retain its prestige after Vietnamese troops Friday captured the showcase headquarters of the Khmer Rouge.

China has said it will not stand idly by and watch Vietnam attack Thailand. The Western diplomats said the key to the situation was a major Vietnamese incursion into Thailand.

U.S. reportedly making contingency plans to close Greek bases in 1988

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States, concerned by mounting Greek opposition to U.S. bases, is making contingency plans for their removal, the Washington Post reported Friday.

It said the Pentagon initiated the contingency plans in response to what it termed the increasingly hostile attitude of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu towards the United States.

Mr. Papandreu has said he regards the extension of a 1983 agreement for U.S. base rights to 1988 as a timetable for removing the installations.

The Post, quoting unidentified U.S. officials, said withdrawal plans were being readied in the event that Mr. Papandreu won a second term in this year's elections.

Mr. Papandreu, who ended a visit to the Soviet Union Thursday, has caused concern in the administration by pursuing agreements with his Communist neighbours — Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia — without consulting NATO, the Post said.

It said the Pentagon was considering Turkey as a possible alternative site for the bases, Turkey

is also in NATO but its relations with Greece are strained.

Mr. Papandreu said Greece and the Soviet Union agree over nuclear issues but respect each other's right to belong to different military blocs.

In remarks to Greek reporters in Leningrad that were released by the Press Ministry Thursday night, Mr. Papandreu called his four-day Soviet trip one of the most successful he had made since becoming Greece's first leftist leader in 1981.

"With regard to nuclear weapons, it is clear that our positions coincide — a halt in nuclear tests, the non-militarisation of space and a moratorium on deploying new missiles of any kind anywhere in the world," he said.

In answer to a question, he said that the two countries' different social systems, and the fact that Greece belongs to NATO, "does not prevent common political action on enormous issues like denuclearisation, like outer space."

"He Soviets do not ask us to leave the (NATO) bloc, and we do not ask them to leave (themselves)," he added.

Mr. Papandreu said references

to Greek-Turkish disputes in a joint communique issued in Athens and Moscow Thursday night were the most favourable to Greek positions that Athens had ever agreed with a third country.

Comparison of Thursday's text with a Greek-Soviet text issued when Prime Minister Nikolaos Karamanlis visited Greece two years ago suggested a slight change in the Soviet position.

In both Thursday's and the 1983 text, the two states agree on the importance of the U.N. Law of the Sea — which Greece cites in its differences with Turkey over sea-bed exploration rights — and call on all states to respect it.

But Thursday's text, in calling for differences to be settled peacefully in the light of the U.N. law, added the new phrase "including those (disputes) regarding the Aegean."

There was no apparent change in Soviet positions over Cyprus, but Greece came out in favour of long-standing Soviet proposals for international conferences both on Cyprus and the Middle East.

Moscow normally avoids involvement in Greek-Turkish issues.

Authorities cut curfew in N. Caledonia

NOUMEA (R) — France's special envoy in New Caledonia, Edgar Pisani, Friday cut by two hours an overnight curfew imposed on the island after violence between white settlers and Melanians.

Mr. Pisani, sent to the Pacific territory to mediate between the settlers and the pro-independence Melanians Kanaks, said the cut was in response to calls from restaurants and businesses in Nou-

mea.

The curfew will now start at 1 a.m. instead of 11 p.m. It will continue to last until 5 a.m.

It was introduced on Jan. 12 and formally approved by the French parliament on Jan. 25 when it declared a state of emergency due to last until the end of June.

Thousands of opponents of independence crowded Noumea's streets on Sunday night to defy the curfew in response to a call from

white settler political leader, Jacques Lafleur.

But only a few hundred turned out the following night and the curfew has since been largely observed.

Twenty people have died in ethnic violence since November when the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) launched a campaign for independence.

U.S. urges stronger drug control in 8 countries

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. government is calling for stronger action in eight major narcotic producing nations to control the international drug traffic.

A State Department report issued Thursday singled out Bolivia and Peru, where it said coca leaf production for cocaine manufacture increased in 1984.

It also said government action was needed to reduce opium production in Burma, Thailand, Iran and Afghanistan and marijuana production in Jamaica and Belize.

The report was prepared by the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics.

U.S. law requires the president to cut off American aid to countries which he determines are not cooperating in drug trafficking control. But the report argued that

U.S. aid should continue because it could be used to help to wipe out the problem.

It said opium production declined in Pakistan but increased marginally in other countries.

There was a dramatic decline in Afghanistan's opium production, from 570 tonnes in 1983 to 180 tonnes last year, but that could partly reflect changed data-gathering methods.

The report said opium output in Pakistan was between 40 and 50 tonnes last year, compared to an estimated 60 tonnes in 1983.

Coca leaf cultivation in Bolivia was 49,200 tonnes last year compared to between 25,000 and 40,000 tonnes the year before. Peru produced 60,000 tonnes in 1984 compared to more than

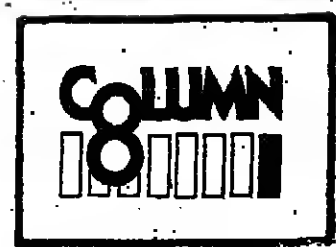
30,000 tonnes in 1983.

U.S. drug enforcement agents were sent into the region on Feb. 3, the report said, but it said that "no coca eradication has yet occurred."

On Peru, the State Department said it was encouraged by reports that full narcotics control activity would soon be resumed in the Upper Huallaga Valley "after an unfortunate pause."

"The killings in the Upper Huallaga Valley and the lawlessness which permeates Tingo Maria are proof that narcotics control and terrorism must both share a high priority with the government of Peru," the report said.

On opium, the report said Burma must find more effective ways of curbing production of the drug, which is used in the man-



Indian wins world press photo prize

AMSTERDAM (R) — An Indian journalist has won an award for best world press photo of 1984 with a picture of a victim of the Bhopal poison gas disaster in India, the World Press Photo Organisation has announced. The colour photograph, taken by Pablo Bartholomew, showed the head of a dead child. The award, which carries a prize of 3,000 guilders (\$800), was made by an international jury chosen by World Press Photo. A special prize for feature pictures, the Oskar Barnack Award, was won by a Paris-based Brazilian photographer, Sebastião Ribeiro Salgado, with a series of photos on the famine in Ethiopia.

Four charged in baby-selling ruse

BOSTON (R) — Two women and two men were indicted on charges of operating a nationwide baby-selling ruse that promised Mexican babies to American couples but never delivered. Federal Prosecutor Brackett Dennison said the four, three Americans and a Mexican attorney, solicited 350 couples, promising that they could quickly deliver Mexican babies. Dennison said the four charged \$6,000 or more, payable in advance, for their services. The indictment charged that in many cases hopeful couples were told they would receive a specific child and were given the name, birth date and sometimes even a photograph of the baby. No children were ever delivered and some couples have been waiting for several years, Dennison said.

Rabbinical Assembly admits women

NEW YORK (R) — The conservative branch of Judaism, after years of wrestling with the issue, has formally admitted women as rabbis. The Rabbinical Assembly, the professional organisation of conservative Judaism's more than 1,100 rabbis, said its members voted 636-267 to allow women to be ordained. Modern-day Judaism is divided into four branches, Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist. With Thursday's announcement, all but the Orthodox branch ordain women as rabbis. The first woman rabbi to be accepted into the Rabbinical Assembly was 30-year-old Amy Ellberg, daughter of former Congressman Joshua Ellberg of Philadelphia.

French airman leaps from mountain top in paraglider

BUENOS AIRES (R) — A French Air Force captain has leapt off Aconcagua, South America's tallest mountain, in a paraglider, the first such descent from the peak in history. Argentina's state news agency Telam has said. It said Captain Alain Joseph Rene Esceve, 32, jumped from the 6,964-metre peak to a staging area for mountain climbers on Sunday in an unpowered flight lasting 25 minutes. The height of the staging area was not given. A group of French mountaineers, a Yugoslav and several Argentines witnessed the flight of the paraglider, a special parachute that can be directed in flight.

Boy locked with dead mother for 3 days

BOGNOR, REGIS, England (R) — A boy aged six, trapped in his locked home with his dead mother, spent three days trying to bring her back to life, police said. Adrian Rayson, thinking his divorced mother Kathy, 28, had fallen asleep, made her breakfast, switched on the television hoping it would stir her and dragged her from her cold bedroom to lie by an electric fire. His ordeal ended when his grandfather, Harvey Cairns, called at the house in this southern England seaside resort.

Nigerian policeman mistakenly killed

LAGOS (R) — A Nigerian policeman investigating a reported theft was mistaken by bystanders for an armed robber and killed, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) has reported. Sergeant Yinka Bakare was shot dead with his own pistol after he arrived at the scene and bystanders pounced on him.

Top Soviet delegation to visit U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — A high-level Soviet delegation led by a member of the policy-making politburo will visit the United States next month, Thomas O'Neill, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, has announced.

Mr. O'Neill said the delegation, headed by Vladimir Shcherbitsky, would visit Congress between March 4 and 7 in reciprocation of a trip by a House delegation to the Soviet Union in 1983.

The group from the Supreme Soviet, that nation's parliamentary body, will visit Texas, California and New York City between March 8 and 13, Mr. O'Neill said.

A top Soviet expert, John Hardt of the Library of Congress, called the visit significant.

He told Reuters he expected Mr. Shcherbitsky to carry with him a politburo policy statement

which would represent Soviet views only a week before the scheduled resumption of U.S.-Soviet arms control talks in Geneva.

Mr. Shcherbitsky, 67 years old, is the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Ukraine and one of only 11 voting members of the policy-making politburo.

It will be the first visit to the United States of a full voting member of the politburo — with the exception of the recent visit of Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko — since a 1973 tour by Leonid Brezhnev.

According to Mr. Hardt, Mr. Shcherbitsky is considered a Kremlin hardliner.

He favours a buildup of Soviet defence forces and is a critic of U.S. prohibitions against shipments of high technology to the Soviet Union.

Mr. Hardt said Mr. Shcherbitsky's reaction to U.S. trade embargoes is to work toward Soviet self-sufficiency.

"This is a high-level visit and comes just a week before the Geneva talks, so it will be watched with interest back there in Moscow", Mr. Hardt said.

Mr. Hardt said the policy statement he expected Mr. Shcherbitsky to carry "will be the closest we get to a policy position of where they stand right now."

Mr. O'Neill said he had informed Secretary of State George Shultz of the Soviet delegation's acceptance of his invitation to visit Congress.

"It is apparent on all counts that everyone recognises the unique aspects of a visit at this time and is eager to cooperate," Mr. O'Neill said.

West welcomes Warsaw Pact proposals

VIENNA (R) — A Warsaw Pact proposal offering a new approach to break the deadlock at the Vienna force reduction talks was welcomed Friday by NATO diplomats as a sign of Moscow's serious commitment to arms negotiations.

But they viewed the proposal, tabled at a plenary session of the 11-year-old talks Thursday, as more of a political signal.

West German Foreign Ministry spokesman Jurgen Chrobog told reporters his country welcomed the proposal as evidence of serious efforts by Moscow to achieve progress in an international forum.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher is visiting Vienna and will confer with the West German delegation to the talks.

The essential elements of the proposal — initial cuts by the U.S. and Soviet Union totalling 33,000 troops in central Europe followed by a freeze of forces in both alliances — were included in the last Eastern initiative in 1983.

The new angle, Western diplomats said, was the proposal to concentrate on these measures as a partial, first-stage agreement rather than working for an overall treaty.

One senior Western diplomat said it appeared the Warsaw Pact was focusing on elements of earlier proposals which could be attractive to the West.

Two U.S. diplomats expelled from Spain

MADRID (R) — Two U.S. diplomats were expelled by the Spanish government earlier this month for suspected espionage, two leading Spanish newspapers said Friday.

Both the Spanish Foreign Ministry and the U.S. embassy declined to comment on the reports and said they would probably issue statements later.

The dailies El Pais and ABC said the two diplomats had left the country some 10 days ago after Spain's secret service detected suspected espionage activities.

The papers had conflicting reports on their identity.

El Pais said the officials were an embassy second secretary and a civilian working at one of four Spanish military bases used by American troops, while ABC said both were embassy staff.

Italian police, troops find underground hideout

PALERMO, Sicily (R) — Police and troops have discovered a network of underground tunnels in Palermo which they said mafia members used as a secret meeting place and escape route.

The network was found Thursday at the climax of a major security operation against the mafia in the Sicilian capital which led to the arrest of at least 10 people and the discovery of weapons, ammunition, and explosives.

The tunnels are in the eastern Palermo neighbourhoods of Ciaculli and Giardini. One underground passage led from the villa of a suspected mafia leader to a large grotto which police said was used for meetings of mafia "families".

Other tunnels linked homes that once belonged to suspected mafia chiefs Michele and Salvatore Greco, fugitive brothers accused of ordering the car-bomb killing of Magistrate Rocco Chinnici in 1983.

Police said they believed the Greco brothers and other mafia fugitives had used the underground network as a hideout. One tunnel is more than 100 metres long and the grotto is 20 metres in diameter.

Police said the cave could hold as many as 70 people.

The operation began earlier this week when police and troops in helicopters mapped out the district from the sky and planned the operation, police said.

Troops surrounded the area Thursday. As helicopters hovered overhead, police moved in and checked several thousand residents.

The police did not say if any of the arrests were made in the hideout.

The security sweep was the latest in a series of successes against organised crime in Italy since September, when police carried out the first of several major anti-mafia operations.

Acting on tips from former mafia chief Tommaso Buscetta, authorities have since arrested more than 300 mafia suspects and have issued arrest warrants for hundreds more.

Buscetta, who was extradited to Italy from Brazil, is now in the United States. American officials have said he is cooperating in their investigation of organised crime.

Hundreds of Sri Lankan Tamils arrive in India

NEW DELHI (R) — Hundreds of Sri Lankan Tamils have sailed into a south Indian fishing port after fleeing from the island, Indian news agencies reported Friday.

The Press Trust of India and the United News of India said about 400 Tamils had arrived in boats at Rameshwaram in Tamil Nadu state every day over the past week to join 3,300 refugees already in a camp there.

Violence involving majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils in Sri Lanka has strained relations between New Delhi and Colombo.

Tamils are in the majority in Tamil Nadu, 28 kilometres from Sri Lanka across the Palk Straits. New Delhi has denied Colombo's allegations that guerrillas fighting for a separate Tamil state in Sri Lanka are trained in southern India.

The agencies also reported protests at Rameshwaram following Indian press reports that two Indian fishermen were killed by the Sri Lankan navy two days ago.

The protesters set fire to a passenger train at Rameshwaram to express anger at what they called India's failure to protect the fishermen, the agencies said.

There were no reports of casualties in the fire. Shops in the town closed as a mark of protest.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said the Indian government had seen only press reports that two fishermen were killed and was making its own investigation.

The news agencies said that in Madras, capital of Tamil Nadu, A. Amrithalingam, secretary-general of Sri Lanka's Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), Friday called on India to intervene in a "Bangladesh-type action" to prevent what he described as genocide.

New Delhi sent troops into the former East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, and fought a war with Pakistan in 1971 after millions of refugees had crossed into India.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
1984 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q1 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold.
 ♠KJ6 ♠Q105 ♠AJ35 ♠AJ3
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1NT 2♦ 2♦ Pass
 What action do you take?
- Q2 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold.
 ♠Q10543 ♠K65 ♠AJ94 ♠7
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 1♦ 2♦ 2♦ Pass
 What do you bid now?
- Q3 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠6 ♠AQJ83 ♠AKJ6 ♠765
 Your right hand opponent opens the bidding with one club. What do you bid now?
- Q4 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠AK54 ♠AJ ♠AQ7 ♠A95
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 2NT Pass 4NT Pass
 What action do you take?
- Q5 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠AJ3 ♠98742 ♠KQ4 ♠62
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 1♦ Pass 1♦ Pass
 2♦ Pass ?
 What action do you take?
- Q6 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠Q55 ♠AJ32 ♠10953 ♠Q6
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South
 1♦ 1NT ?
 What action do you take?